FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-159
Thursday
16 August 1990

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-159 CONTENTS *16 August 1990*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues ... 1
  - Six Japanese Refused Departure *[KYODO]* ... 1
  - MITI Advises Overseas Japanese *[KYODO]* ... 1
  - U.S. Lawmaker Seeks Financial Aid *[KYODO]* ... 1
  - Watanabe Suggests Funds Boost *[KYODO]* ... 1
  - Saudi Arabia on Oil Supply Cut *[KYODO]* ... 2
- Yomitan Mayor Promises More Demonstrations *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 14 Aug]* ... 2
- Okinawa Council Sends Petitioners to Tokyo *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 15 Aug]* ... 2
- Outgoing Soviet Envoy Gives News Conference *[KYODO]* ... 3
  - Urges Increased Summit Meetings *[KYODO]* ... 3
- Government To Provide Yen Aid to Indonesia *[KYODO]* ... 4
- Cabinet Ministers Visit Yasakuni Shrine *[KYODO]* ... 4
- Three Projectiles Fired at NHK Building *[KYODO]* ... 5

North Korea

- Reportage on Commencement of Pan-National Rally ... 5
  - Pyongyang Mass Meeting Held *[KCNA]* ... 5
  - 'All' Urged To Wage Movement *[KCNA]* ... 6
  - Prayer Meeting Conducted *[KCNA]* ... 6
  - South Delegate Speaks *[KCNA]* ... 7
  - Rally Commences in Panmunjom *[KCNA]* ... 7
  - Delegates Erect Monument *[KCNA]* ... 8
  - Cultural Festival in Panmunjom *[KCNA]* ... 8
  - Marchers Issue Statement *[KCNA]* ... 9
  - Delegates View 'Concrete Wall' *[KCNA]* ... 9
  - Protest in Seoul Reported *[KCNA]* ... 10
- Yim Consolation Team Waits To Cross Border *[KCNA]* ... 10
  - Team Issues Statement *[KCNA]* ... 10
- ROK Priest Hunger Striking for Free Travel *[KCNA]* ... 11
- More Activities Mark Liberation From Japan ... 11
  - Wreath-Laying Ceremonies Held *[KCNA]* ... 11
  - President Attends Performance *[KCNA]* ... 11
  - Koreans in Japan Meet *[KCNA]* ... 11
  - Letter Sent to Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* ... 12
- Peace, Reunification Symposium Opens in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* ... 12
  - Debate Continues *[KCNA]* ... 13
- South Parties Demand Nullification of Bills *[KCNA]* ... 13
- President Awards 'National Reunification Prize' *[KCNA]* ... 13
- * Daily Decries U.S. Asia-Pacific Strategy *[NODONG SINMUN 21 Jun]* ... 13
- Soviet Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang 13 Aug *[KCNA]* ... 15
- Army Chief Meets Soviet Naval, Air Delegations *[KCNA]* ... 15
- Soviet Ties Lauded at Anniversary Banquet *[KCNA]* ... 15
- Japan Socialist Party Group Arrives in Wonsan *[KCNA]* ... 16
- Film Show Celebrates Korea-Vietnam Association *[KCNA]* ... 16
- Kim Yong-nam Attends Castro Birthday Reception *[KCNA]* ... 16
- Public Health Delegation Departs for Iran Visit *[KCNA]* ... 17

- O Chin-u Sends Greeting to Algerian Counterpart *[KCNA]* 17
- Yi Chong-ok Attends Ceremony for Cameroonian *[KCNA]* 17
- Editorial on Learning From Mt. Paektu 'Spirit' *[KCNA]* 17
- Tenth Anniversary of Kim Il-song Work Noted *[KCNA]* 17

South Korea

- Further Reaction to Iraqi Moves in Persian Gulf 18
  - Koreans To Leave Via Jordan *[YONHAP]* 18
  - Crisis Causing Economic Damage *[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Aug]* 18
- North Hints May Cancel Prime Ministers' Talks *[CHUNGANG ILBO 16 Aug]* 19
- Dissidents Cancel Pan-National Rally Events *[YONHAP]* 19
- Soviet Policies Causing 'Difficulties' for DPRK *[CHUNGANG ILBO 15 Aug]* 20
- *North Korean Military Strength Examined *[NAEWOE TONGSIN 22 Jun]* 20
- Students Attack U.S. Army Facility in Seoul *[YONHAP]* 22
- President Boris Yeltsin Likely To Visit Korea *[THE KOREA HERALD 16 Aug]* 23
- No Tae-u's Liberation Day Anniversary Speech *[Seoul TV]* 23
- Further on Maneuvering Among Political Parties 23
  - General Elections Urged *[YONHAP]* 23
  - Parties Mark Liberation Day *[YONHAP]* 24
  - PPD Leader Offers Merger *[YONHAP]* 24
  - Democratic Party Rejects Offer *[YONHAP]* 24
  - Talks on Merger Proposed *[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Aug]* 25
- * 29 June Declaration Revisited 25
  - * Poll Shows Discontent *[HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN 25 Jun]* 25
  - * Opinion Survey Reviewed *[HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN 26 Jun]* 29

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- Resistance Group Urges Army To Oppose Junta *[Bangkok THE NATION 10 Aug]* 31
- Exiled Buddhist Monks Protest in Thailand *[Bangkok THE NATION 11 Aug]* 31
- Lao Delegation Departs Following Border Talks *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
- Thai Delegation Arrives for Border Talks *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
- NLD Candidate Appeals Result in Kyaikmaraw *[Rangoon Radio]* 32
- Complaint Filed Against Candidate From Homalin *[Rangoon Radio]* 32
- Groups Want Membership in Anti-Junta Alliance *[Bangkok THE NATION 16 Aug]* 32
- Khun Sa Interviewed on Political Situation *[Bangkok KHAO PHISET 5 Jul]* 33

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

- Deputy Minister Sees No Regional Military Clash *[BERNAMA]* 34
- Saudi Envoy Meets Counterpart, Asks for Help *[BERNAMA]* 35
- Mahathir on Aid to Developing Countries, Kuwait *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 35
- Unemployment Rate Reportedly Less Than Expected *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 35

Singapore

- Prime Minister Lee's Last National Day Message *[THE STRAITS TIMES 9 Aug]* 36
- Editorial Views Significance of Li Peng Visit *[THE STRAITS TIMES 11 Aug]* 37

Cambodia

- Chea Sim Speaks at KUFNCD Congress Closing *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
- Deputy Defense Minister Visits Border Troops *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 39
  - Continues Tour *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 40
- National Bank Announces Currency Devaluation *[SPK]* 40
- Phnom Penh Reports Armed Forces Operations 40

  - Phnom Penh City Actions Jan-Jun *[SPK]* 40
  - Kompong Thom Activities Noted *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 40
  - 4th Division Battles Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 41
  - Actions in Border Provinces Noted *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 41
  - More on Border Provinces *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 41
  - 6 Aug Operations Outlined *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 41
- Drought Affects Farming in Kampot Province *[SPK]* 42
- Radio Reports Farming Activities Until 4 Aug *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 42
- Phnom Penh Reports Outbreak of Dengue Fever *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 42
- Heng Samrin Congratulates Hungarian President *[SPK]* 42
- Heng Samrin Congratulates Bulgarian President *[SPK]* 42
- Heng Samrin Greets Congo on National Day *[SPK]* 43
- Supreme Command Condemns SRV 'Maneuvers' *[Radio VONADK]* 43
- Cambodians Said 'Convinced' of Continued Support *[Radio VODK]* 44
- VONADK Notes 'Panic' in Kompong Thom Town 45
- 300 SRV Troops Said Shipped to Kompong Cham *[Radio VONADK]* 45
- 8 Villages in Kompong Thom 'Liberated' 7 Aug *[Radio VONADK]* 45

Indonesia

- Further Reportage on Reaction to Iraqi Invasion 45
  - Parliament Issues Condemnation *[AFP]* 45
  - Saudi Request for Troops Viewed *[ANTARA]* 46
  - Army Says No UN Request for Troops *[ANTARA]* 46
  - OPEC Members To Ensure Supplies *[BERNAMA]* 46
  - Diplomats Told To Leave Kuwait, Iraq *[AFP]* 47
- Irian Jaya Command Captures 'Disturbance Makers' *[ANTARA]* 47
- Private Firm-Government TV Venture Approved *[KOMPAS 1 Aug]* 47

Laos

- PASASON on Foreign Forces in Persian Gulf *[Vientiane Radio]* 48
- Front Delegation Returns From Visit to PRC *[KPL]* 48
  - Activities Cited *[Vientiane Radio]* 48
- Lao Delegation Returns Home From Burma *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
- Phoun Sipaseut Meets Soviet Delegation 11 Aug *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
- Military Delegation Departs for Thailand 15 Aug *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
- Leaders Greet Hungarian Officials on Elections *[Vientiane Radio]* 50
- National Construction Front Marks Anniversary *[KPL]* 50
- Sali Vongkhamsao Reports on Financial Work 50
  - Installment Four, Part Two *[Vientiane Radio]* 50
  - Installment Five, Part Two *[Vientiane Radio]* 52
  - Installment Six, Part Two *[Vientiane Radio]* 53
- Article Outlines Objectives of National Radio *[Vientiane Radio]* 53

Philippines

- Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues 54
  - Iraq Said Helping in Evacuation *[Quezon City Radio]* 54
  - Energy Conservation Directive *[MANILA BULLETIN 14 Aug]* 54
  - De Villa on Oil Price Rises *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 14 Aug]* 55
  - Senate Opposes Use of Bases *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 14 Aug]* 55
  - Ramos Explains Not Joining Force *[Quezon City Radio]* 56
  - Salonga Against Support for U.S. *[Quezon City Radio]* 56
  - Noninterference Reiterated *[Manila Radio]* 56
  - Diplomats To Seek Accreditation *[BUSINESS WORLD 15 Aug]* 57
  - Aquino Approves Evacuation Airlift *[Baguio City Radio]* 58
  - Air Force Evacuation Cancelled *[Quezon City Radio]* 58
  - Embassy in Kuwait Retained *[Manila Radio]* 58
  - Students Rally at U.S. Embassy *[Manila Radio]* 59
- Government Initiates Plan for Bases Conversion *[MANILA BULLETIN 14 Aug]* 59

Military Assures Senate of No Coup Attempt *[MALAYA 14 Aug]* 59
Rightist Rebels Blamed for 14 Aug Bombings *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 60
Ramos Allays Fears of Alleged Military Uprising *[Manila Radio]* 60
Honasan Letter Renews Cease-Fire Offer *[BUSINESS WORLD 14 Aug]* 60
Suspected NPA Leader, Two Others Arrested *[MANILA BULLETIN 14 Aug]* 60
Coup-Linked Officer Recaptured After Escape *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 61
Renegade Colonel Declares War on Government *[MALAYA 15 Aug]* 61
Communist Party Education Official Captured *[Quezon City Radio]* 61

Thailand

Further Coverage of Middle East Situation 61
    Praphat on Workers Evacuation *[Bangkok TV]* 61
    Center in Amman Planned *[THE NATION 16 Aug]* 62
    Saudi Pledge Cited *[BANGKOK POST 16 Aug]* 62
    Paper on Foreigners in Iraq *[BANGKOK POST 16 Aug]* 63
    Energy, Oil Imports Discussed *[Bangkok Radio]* 64
    Official Notes Trade *[Bangkok Radio]* 65
    Saddam's 'Goal' Viewed *[THAI RAT 16 Aug]* 65
Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Iran *[Bangkok Radio]* 65
VOFA Asks If U.S. Cambodia Shift 'Proper' 66
Suchinda Views Cambodian Border, U.S. Policy *[Bangkok Radio]* 66
Cambodian Factions' Talks May Be 'Last Chance' *[THE NATION 11 Aug]* 66
Article Says China 'More Flexible' on Cambodia *[THE NATION 15 Aug]* 67
Foreign Ministry Group To Visit PRC 21-27 Aug *[THE NATION 15 Aug]* 68
Sunthon Welcomes Lao Army General on Visit *[Bangkok TV]* 68
Transportation Cooperation Discussed With SRV *[Radio VOFA]* 69
Trade Cooperation Accord Signed With Australia *[BANGKOK POST 7 Aug]* 69
Cabinet Agrees To Revoke Trade Restrictions *[THE NATION 15 Aug]* 69
Bill for Establishing Labor Ministry Approved *[BANGKOK POST 8 Aug]* 70
Leaflets Distributed in Pattani Decry Army Plan *[THE NATION 11 Aug]* 70
Reportage on Deputy Minister's Visit to Iran *[cross-reference]* 70

Vietnam

SRV-U.S. Team Reportedly Finds MIA Remains *[AFP]* 70
NHAN DAN Views U.S. Military Strategy *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Spokeswoman on PRC Relations, Gulf Situation *[Hanoi International]* 72
Hanoi International Updates Foreign Investment 72
Civil Aviation Expands International Services *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
Finance Ministry Reviews Results, Plans Tasks *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
Economic Results of Renovation Policy Reported *[VNA]* 74
Kien Giang Sends More to New Economic Zones *[Hanoi Radio]* 74
Council Adopts Proposal on Traffic Safety Week *[VNA]* 75

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Hawke Views Role of Warships in Gulf Crisis *[Melbourne International]* 76
Major Powers 'Undermining' GATT Progress *[AFP]* 76

Papua New Guinea

Council Meets on Border Incidents With Indonesia *[Melbourne International]* 76

Japan

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Six Japanese Refused Departure

OW1508084590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—A group of six Japanese residents in Iraq was refused departure from Baghdad for Jordan by Iraqi border officials, and compelled to return to the Iraqi capital Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Another group of four Japanese has also left Baghdad to flee into Jordan but is expected to encounter a similar fate, the ministry officials said, citing reports from Iraq, which invaded its neighboring Mideast nation of Kuwait on August 8. [date as received]

The reports said the six Japanese company employees were turned away by Iraqi guards at a border area with Jordan upon arrival there early Tuesday because of a Baghdad goverment order not to allow Japanese residents to leave the country.

The reports also said Iraqi immigration authorities have shrugged off visa applications filed by several other Japanese wanting to flee Iraq, citing the Baghdad government decision not to issue visas for Japanese residents and their families, the ministry officials said. At present there are 230 Japanese stranded in Iraq, the officials said.

MITI Advises Overseas Japanese

OW1508084790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) told Japanese trade and manufacturing companies to prohibit their overseas subsidiaries from trading products of Iraq or Kuwait in line with Japan's economic sanctions against the two countries, MITI officials said.

MITI issued an official notification to 161 industrial organizations, asking them to instruct their member companies to toe the line.

The move is aimed at putting the leash on Japanese subsidiaries operating in the countries that did not join the United Nations' economic sanctions against Iraq. The notification asked each company to follow faithfully the government's measures based on the U.N. Security Council's resolution and to instruct their overseas subsidiaries to follow suit.

U.S. Lawmaker Seeks Financial Aid

OW1608083690 Tokyo KYODO in English 2357 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Washington, Aug. 15 (KYODO)—A member of the U.S. House of Representatives said Wednesday he has written to President George Bush asking that Japan make a financial contribution to the U.S. military operation in the Persian Gulf.

Rep. Jerry Solomon, a New York Republican, said his letter to Bush requested that Japan help underwrite the U.S. intervention in the Gulf region.

Despite Japan's constitution barring overseas military operations, Solomon said, "There is nothing to prevent them from making a financial contribution to this international effort."

"The Japanese would suffer the most from an increase in the price of oil and the current U.S. military commitment to the Gulf may cost the American taxpayers billions of dollars," said Solomon, a member of the House Rules and Foreign Affairs committees. "Is it too much to request the Japanese to absorb some of the expense?" he asked in his letter dated Monday.

Bush said at a news conference Tuesday that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has expressed [words indistinct] extend assistance to the Gulf operation.

Watanabe Suggests Funds Boost

OW1608112490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO—A senior ruling party politician said Thursday Japan should boost its funding of U.S. troops stationed in the country as indirect assistance to the Western and Arab military effort in the Persian Gulf. Michio Watanabe, formerly head of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) policy affairs coucil and now the leader of a major LDP faction, said extra funds for U.S. troops stationed here was one method of supporting the Gulf operation.

"As the country benefiting the most (from Mideast oil), Japan can't just do nothing," Watanabe told reporters. Watanabe said "It is out of the question" for Japan to shoulder the operating costs of one of the U.S. aircraft carriers deployed in the Middle East as suggested by some members of the U.S. Congress.

Constitutional restrictions prevent Japan from dispatching troops to assist the multilateral force now forming in Saudi Arabia and opposition legislators maintain that the direct funding of such a force is also barred.

Some government officials say Japan may provide financial assistance to military operations in the Persian Gulf if they are put under the auspices of the United Nations. Other possibilities being raised are contributions in the medical and communications fields as well as aid to countries in the region affected economically by the crisis.

Saudi Arabia on Oil Supply Cut

OW1608082490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 (KYODO)—Saudi Arabia will reduce its oil supply to Japan by 16 percent beginning with September delivery, industry sources said Thursday. The decision was sent to five Japanese oil and trading companies which deal directly with the country.

Japan was expecting to import 250,000 barrels per day (BPD) from Saudi Arabia in September through direct deals handled by the firms, which include Nippon Oil Co., Cosmo Oil Co., and Mitsubishi Corp.

Though the reason for the supply cut has yet to be made clear, the sources said it appears to be related to intentions to cover the reduction in Kuwaiti supplies to Europe resulting from the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. Reductions will be also imposed on other major oil importers, including the United States which faces a 15 percent cut, the sources said.

Commenting on the report, the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said the planned cut would have little impact on the oil market. "This does not mean that oil supply will fall worldwide," said an agency official, who indicated that Japan could cover the reduction by importing more oil from other sources.

Yomitan Mayor Promises More Demonstrations

OW1508081490 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 14 Aug 90 Evening Edition p 7

[Text] U.S. forces stationed on Okinawa conducted this year's 12th parachute exercise at the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield on the morning of 14 August. The exercise was completed after 40 members of the Army's First Special Unit (Green Berets) jumped from a CH-46 helicopter by 0930.

In protest against the excercise, some 80 Yomitan villagers gathered in front of a gate to Torii Station communications facilities, which are located near the auxiliary airfield. Facing Torii Station, they repeatedly shouted such slogans as "Stop Exercises!" and "Go Home Green Berets!" Meanwhile, the local police as well as riot police guarded the facilities where the Green Berets are stationed.

At the rally, Yomitan Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi set forth his policy of strengthening protest actions, saying: "We will study concrete action plans if exercises continue." Moreover, Prefectural Assemblyman Eitoku Iha and representatives from the Landowners' Association also appealed for a halt to the exercises and the return of the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield.

The villagers began gathering in front of the gate around 0600 on the same day. Meanwhile, the Kadena Police Department posted policemen to secure traffic through the gate, with some 40 riot policemen on standby alert by the gate.

Yomitan Village authorities have confirmed that they will stage protest rallies every time exercises are conducted. Prior to this protest rally, they repeatedly played a tape recorded in English and addressed to U.S. forces personnel, protesting frequent exercises and appealing for a halt to the exercises.

Okinawa Council Sends Petitioners to Tokyo

OW1508134890 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The Okinawa Prefectural Consultative Council on the Conversion of Military Land and the Base-land Issue (Guntenkyo, chaired by Governor Nishime) will send a delegation (led by Urasoe Mayor Noboru Higa) to Tokyo on 15 August for three days to petition the Japanese Government. The delegation will ask the central government to adopt special measures to enable the return of 12 installations and 16 sites now held by the U.S. forces on Okinawa. A list of facilities and sites to be returned was approved at a general meeting of the council in May, but because the U.S. forces has agreed to return some of the facilities and sites, the list was revised, with some deletions and additions. The revised list names 12 facilities and 16 sites; it was finalized and made public on 14 August. The list includes all of Blue Beach Training Ground (in Kin-cho), Ginbaru Training Ground (in Kin-cho), Tengan Pier (in Gushiken City) and Yomitan Auxiliary Air Base (in Yomitan-son), and part of Kadena Marina.

Among those added are two places (in Kin-cho) of Camp Hansen, all of Futenma Air Station (Ginowan City), and part of Makiminato Area (limited shore area in Urasoe City).

The list originally had contained Yaedake Communications Station, Onna Communications Station, Kadena Ammunition Dump, and Awase Golf Course, but they have been taken off the revised list.

In requesting the return of these sites and areas, the council will present its plans for their utilization. A feature of the plan is that seven out of the 16 sites are intended for large resort-related projects.

Guntenkyo insists that about 1,000 hectares of areas promised for return so far are not enough. The council is requesting the return of additional areas, stressing that the military bases are interfering with city planning, adjustment of the traffic system, industrial infrastructure, development of the region, and balanced development of the prefecture in general.

Guntenkyo made a similar request in 1986, calling for the return of 13 facilities and 30 sites at that time. The council is reiterating its request for the return of the 10 installations and 15 sites from the earlier list, which were not included in the list of those promised for return. Among them are Okuma Rest Center and Naha Military Port.

The delegation is scheduled to visit the Foreign Ministry on 15 August, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, the Liberal Democratic Party National Defense Division chairman, the party Base Countermeasure Committee chairman, chairmen of the Okinawa Special Committees of the lower and upper houses, and Okinawa Development Agency on 16 August, and Diet members from Okinawa on 17 August.

The petition mission is composed of five men—Urasoe City Mayor Noboru Higa (council vice chairman), Yomitan-son Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi (also vice chairman), Ginowan City Mayor Seiken Tobaru, Kin-cho Mayor Kikuwo Nakama and Kunigami-son Hiroshi Nakahara.

Outgoing Soviet Envoy Gives News Conference

OW1508041090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0321 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Outgoing Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solovyev on Wednesday stressed the importance of regularizing Tokyo-Moscow summit talks on the occasion of President Mikhail Gorbachev's planned visit to Japan next spring.

Solovyev held a farewell press conference at the Japan National Press Club to mark the end of his term in Tokyo.

Japan and the Soviet Union currently hold regular talks between their foreign ministers.

Urges Increased Summit Meetings

OW1508064490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0619 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solovyev on Wednesday proposed the holding of regular summit talks between the leaders of Japan and the Soviet Union. The outgoing Soviet envoy also indicated that President Mikhail Gorbachev, in a visit to Japan next year, will express a desire for Japanese economic assistance in developing Siberia and the Soviet Far East.

Solovyev, Moscow's ambassador to Japan for the past four years, made the remarks in farewell meeting with reporters at the Japan National Press Club before stepping down from his post on Monday to assume the ambassadorship to China. Expressing dissatisfaction with the current level of Soviet-Japan dialogue, Solovyev contrasted it to Moscow's regular top-level contacts with the countries of Western Europe and the United States. "That is why relations with those countrie have marked such progress," he said. "With that in mind, I would say it is unnatural that we have no such regular dialogue with Japan, especially when one considers Japan's international standing," Solovyev said.

Relations between the two countries have been strained in the postwar period by the Cold War between East and West, and by a territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviets in the closing days of World War II.

Gorbachev's visit to Japan will be the first ever by a Soviet leader. Japanese prime ministers, meanwhile, have made four visits to Moscow—Ichiro Hatoyama in 1956, Kakuei Tanaka in 1973, Zenko Suzuki in 1982, and Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1985.

Japan already maintains a regular dialogue with Moscow at the level of foreign ministers and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is due in Japan in early September.

A senior Foreign Ministry official welcomed Solovyev's proposal, saying that regular talks at the highest level are needed to achieve a "breakthrough" in Japan's relations with Moscow. "Maybe Gorbachev's visit to Japan will be the first step to realize this," he said, noting that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has already indicated a willingness to visit Moscow after Gorbachev's visit.

Asked what topics will be on Gorbachev's agenda when he comes to Tokyo, Solovyev replied that Moscow considers the development of Siberia and the Soviet Far East to be of major importance. "Of course, we can always develop the Far East region on our own, but I think that in cooperation with Japan we can do a better job of it," he said.

Solovyev said other areas where the two countries could expand cooperation include protection of the environment, fisheries, and matters of humanitarian concern.

The Soviet ambassador stressed the need for the two countries to take steps to enhance the prospects for peace in the Asia-Pacific region, which lags considerably behind Europe in that respect.

Acknowledging that a European blueprint for security could not be applied without modification in Asia due to intrinsic differences, Solovyev said efforts must be made to find a formula acceptable to all concerned parties.

Questioned on the bilateral territorial dispute, Solovyev emphasized it is not "a simple problem." He added that a single visit by Gorbachev cannot be expected to resolve all problems between the two countries. While the territorial dispute is apt to arouse strong emotions on both sides, it should be approached in a rational manner, he said. "I do not see progress being achieved through a mere exchange of complaints."

Solovyev quoted an Aesop's fable in which sunshine proved more effective than wind in inducing a traveler to shed the heavy clothing he had wrapped tightly around him.

To rectify the absence of trust that continues to exist between the two countries, "both sides should carefully consider the past and, if necessary, they must reflect on their conduct and express regret," he said. But in countering a Japanese reporter's question over the eviction of Japanese residents from the disputed islands, Solovyev said the Japanese people should not lose sight of the fact that the Soviet Union did not start World War II.

Solovyev proposed that the two countries toss away their old spectacles, put on a new pair, take up a new pen, "and not merely turn a new page in the history of bilateral relations, but write a new book."

Government To Provide Yen Aid to Indonesia

OW1508104790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Japan on Wednesday pledged to extend up to 3.2 billion yen in new grants-in-aid to Indonesia, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said. Officials said representatives of Japan and Indonesia met in Jakarta earlier in the day and exchanged diplomatic notes concerning the pledge of up to 3,183 million yen for three projects.

Japan, Indonesia's largest aid benefactor, will provide up to 1,664 million yen to help Indonesia correct its over-reliance on imports of measles and polio vaccines for infants and small children, the officials said. They said the money will be put to use in the construction of facilities and the procurement of equipment for domestic production of the vaccines to ensure a stable supply in times of need.

Up to 803 million yen will be expended for a project to construct and equip a forest tree development center, officials said. By facilitating increased Indonesian forestry product exports, the officials said Japan hopes to contribute to the country's goal of reducing its dependence on oil and gas exports. Japan is the largest importer of tropical timber from Indonesia.

Officials said that in addition to providing a stable supply of high-grade seeds for afforestation purposes and enhancing forest-raising expertise, the center would also have an environmental function of serving to protect tropical forests.

Officials said the remaining portion of the grants, or up to 716 million yen, would go toward providing a new building and equipment for the institute of human settlements.

The institute provides the planning and technical expertise for the Indonesian Government's program to build new housing and improve the living conditions for its citizens, they said.

Cabinet Ministers Visit Yasakuni Shrine

OW1508064590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Thirteen of 21 Japanese cabinet members visited Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine on Wednesday, the 45th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II. But Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama abandoned visits to the Shinto shrine, which is dedicated to Japan's over two million war dead, to avoid offending neighboring Asian countries.

Asian countries are sensitive to cabinet ministers' visits to the shrine where wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo and other Class-A war criminals are enshrined. Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto also followed the example set by Kaifu and Nakayama. Last year, 14 cabinet ministers visited the shrine on August 15.

Among the 13 cabinet members were Justice Minister Shin Hasegawa, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, International Trade and Industry Minister [MITI] Kabun Muto, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Tomio Yamamoto, Education Minister Kousuke Hori, Labor Minister Shunpei Tsukahara, Health and Welfare Minister Yuji Tsushima, Home Affairs Minister Keiwa Okuda, and Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa.

Justice Minister Hasegawa, MITI Minister Muto, and Defense Agency Chief Ishikawa said they visited the shrine in their private capacity. But, Finance Minister Hashimoto and several others did not clarify whether their visits were official or personal.

Before Wednesday, Transport Minister Akira Ono and three director generals of the Management and Coordination Agency, Okinawa Development Agency, and Hokkaido Development Agency have already visited the shrine.

In August 1985, then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone became the first head of government to visit the shrine in an official capacity, drawing strong criticism from China, South and North Korea, and other Asian countries which saw the visit as a sign of reviving militarism in Japan. Nakasone's successors Noboru Takeshita, Sosuke Uno, and Kaifu have not visited Yasukuni Shrine in their official capacity since 1986.

Meanwhile, a total of 198 Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and their proxies paid group homage to the shrine. They included LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Mutsuki Kato and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Hajime Tamura.

Three Projectiles Fired at NHK Building

OW1508145890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1446 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Three projectiles believed to have been fired by radical leftists were found on the rooftop of the headquarters of Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) in Tokyo and a nearby parking lot, police said Wednesday.

Police also found what appeared to be a homemade mortar launcher on a nearby construction site where the Yoyogi Park gymnasium is being renovated. There were no reports of casualties and no damage was caused to the building.

Public security officials suspect the projectiles were targeted against the public television network in Shibuya in protest against what the leftists regard as its biased reports in support of the imperial family.

The projectiles resembled those fired toward the Tokyo residence of Prince Hitachi, younger brother of Emperor Akihito, on January 8. Chukaku-ha, a radical leftist group, later claimed responsibility for that attack.

North Korea

Reportage on Commencement of Pan-National Rally

Pyongyang Mass Meeting Held

SK1408160590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A 150,000-strong mass meeting was held at Kim Il-song Stadium in Pyongyang this afternoon in welcome of the delegates to the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country.

Seen at the stadium were sloganboards and streamers reading "Let's continue the march that started from Mt. Paektu to Mt. Halla excl." "Let's pull down the concrete wall with the united efforts of the 70 million people excl." "Warm welcome to the delegates to the pan-national rally," "Let's make the 1990s the decade of reunification excl." "Korea is one" and "Compatriots in the North, South and abroad, unite under the banner of reunification excl." And colored buntings and flags of the DPRK were fluttering in the wind.

Yesterday the opening ceremony of the pan-national rally and the starting ceremony of the Mt. Paekdu-Mt. Halla grand march for the promotion of national reunification were held solemnly atop Mt. Paektu with the resolution to put an end to national division and open the door of reunification. When the delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters, the delegation of Koreans in North America, the delegation of Koreans in Europe, the delegation of the promotion headquarters in Japan, the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union, the delegation of Koreans in China, the delegation of Koreans in Japan and the delegation of the North side on the grand march to the South appeared at the stadium, a crowd ran to the envoys of reunification, hugged and warmly welcomed them.

Present at the meeting were Vice-President Pak Song-chol, Chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally Yun Ki-pok and officials concerned. Invited to the meeting were delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters of the pan-national rally, Hwang Sok- yong and Kim Myong-su (female), co-chairman of the promotion headquarters in North America Yi Haeng-u who is a co- delegate of the overseas promotion headquarters, head of the delegation of Koreans in Japan So Man-sul, heads of delegations and delegates of compariots overseas. The meeting was addressed by Chang Chol, vice-premier and vice-chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally.

On behalf of the entire people of the northern half of the country he, first of all, warmly welcomed delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters Hwang Sok-yong and all other marchers of the regional promotion headquarters who arrived in Pyongyang after a long journey with an ardent desire to reunify the divided country.

The grand march for national reunification, a precious fruition of the arduous struggle staged by compatriots from all walks of life at home and abroad to promote national reconciliation and unity and accelerate the historical cause of national reunification, is a significant event in the history of the reunification movement of our nation, he said.

Noting that thanks to the patriotic struggle of compatriots in the North, South and abroad, the reunification movement has greeted the period of a new turning-point in our country, Chang Chol continued:

The U.S. forces and their nuclear weapons, the root cause of war, must be withdrawn from South Korea without delay.

The North and the South must lower the guns levelled at fellow countrymen, realise disarmament and sign a "nonaggression declaration". And a peace agreement should be signed between the DPRK and the United States.

The wall of division which has been hardened across the territory must be demolished at an early date and everyone allowed to go whereever he or she wants in the country.

He called on all the compatriots in the North, South and abroad to unite closely with each other and turn our columns of march into a more powerful and strong domestic forces for reunification so as to glorify the 1990s as the historical decade of national reunification, a cherished desire of the people.

Then, delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters Hwang Sok-yong made a speech.

He said the grand march for national reunification from Mt. Paektu to Mt. Halla that started on August 13 should be continued through Panmunjom which is a symbolic link of the chains finding the waist of the motherland.

I will go forward with a single heart till the day when the entire fellow countrymen will make a grand march for reunification across the whole land as beautiful as a golden tapestry with this year as the starting point of conversion into the decade of reunification from division, he stated.

Head of the delegation of Koreans in Europe Chong Kyu-myong in his speech said the 70 million people in the North, South and abroad must unite closely with each other, drive out of this land the outside forces and a handful of separatists under their patronage and achieve national reunification, whether they be communists or democrats, leftist or rightist irrespective of idea, social sections and regions.

Deputy head of the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union Kim Song said the division of our country is attributable to the occupation of South Korea by Americans. And he expressed the resolution to fight for national reunification at the cost of his life.

Head of the delegation of Koreans in Japan So Man-sul said the members of the grand march for national reunification, whether from America, Europe, the Soviet Union, China, Japan or other regions, are now vigorously marching to Mt. Halla from Mt. Paektu shoulder to shoulder with the people in the homeland, joining each other in loudly crying for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialists from this land and national reunification.

We the entire Koreans in Japan will staunchly and devotedly fight to make the 1990s the decade of reunification, he said.

After the meeting, delegates to the pan-national rally again left on the Mt. Paektu-Mt. Halla grand march amid the enthusiastic welcome of citizens of the capital.

'All' Urged To Wage Movement

SK1508100990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0658 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country, which was held here today, in an appeal to all Koreans at home and abroad called on them desirous of national reunification to join in the "pan-national alliance for reunification" and wage the reunification movement nationwide, irrespective of idea and ideology, political view and religious belief.

The "pan-national alliance for reunification," a joint organization of the nation for grand national unity and promotion of national reunification, will be a nationwide organization of the reunification movement which will discuss and settle the reunification problem in conformity with the nation's will and interests as a body grouping all pro-reunification forces at home and abroad.

The appeal stresses the need to extensively wage the movement for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces, struggle for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and lift up voices in the North and the South and abroad for the replacement of the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South and realisation of arms cuts in the North and the South.

It also called for dismantling such artificial barrier of division as the concrete wall bisecting the country into North and South and the "National Security Law" incriminating North-South contact, extensively waging a movement for the release of all patriotic figures including the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan and woman student Yim Su-kyong, messengers of reunification, and broadening the way of independent non-governmental dialogue.

The reunification of the country must be achieved through confederation on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity set out in the historic July 4 joint statement, said the appeal, calling on all compatriots and organizations of the reunification movement at home and abroad to turn out in the struggle to oppose the institutional unification which may trigger a fratricidal war and nuclear war and to reunify the country by means of establishing a confederal state, independent and neutral.

It is the unshakable will of our fellow countrymen to achieve the reunification of the country in the 1990s, the appeal stressed.

Prayer Meeting Conducted

SK1508102890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—A prayer meeting of Korean Catholics for welcoming and supporting the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of Korea was held today at the Changchung Cathedral in Pyongyang.

It was attended by Korean believers in Pyongyang and from local areas and foreign believers.

The prayer meeting heard a sermon from Pak Kyong-su, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Korean Catholic Council and chief of Changchung Cathedral.

Calling upon the Koreans at home and abroad to rise up in the struggle for national reunification, he said:

It is to be regretted that priests of the national Roman Catholic priests' group for the realization of justice in

South Korea failed to join us owing to the obstructive moves of the South Korean authorities, though it proposed to have a mass for reunification in our cathedral.

Woman student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyuhyon, our dear fellow Catholics, who were envoys of reunification, crossed the barrier of division at the risk of their lives today last year. They reassured the world people that Korea is one and demonstrated the will of the 70 million fellow countrymen for reunification.

He expressed the firm belief that the day was sure to come when all fellow countrymen would freely travel, with the barrier of division pulled down and free travel and complete opening realized, the church of the North and the South being one and the same.

All the Catholics in the northern half of the country fully support the pan-national rally which opened in accordance with the idea of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and will redouble their efforts to make the '90s shine as a decade of reunification, he stressed. The prayer meeting closed with a chorus of the song "Korea Is One".

South Delegate Speaks

SK1508104590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—Hwang Sok-yong, delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters, made a keynote report at the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country held here.

He said the entire people in the southern half of the country are fighting at the risk of their lives under the three banners of anti-imperialist independence, anti-fascist democracy and peaceful reunification of the country.

Noting that hundreds of messengers of reunification including the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan and woman student Yim Su- kyong who walked through thorny paths to reunification are now suffering in prison, bound in chains under the "National Security Law," an evil law of national division, he said their hardships are immediately the sufferings of our whole nation from the 45 years of division.

If our nation is to become one, it is necessary, above all, to end foreign forces' domination and interference and attain national sovereignty in South Korea, remove antagonism and distrust between the North and the South and achieve great national unity, he said, and went on:

The U.S. imperialists keep more than 40,000 troops and more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea to block reunification, the unequivocal desire of our nation. Therefore, the division is entirely attributable to the occupation of the southern half of the country by the U.S. imperialists.

Just as we can confirm here in Panmunjom now this moment, the road to reunification will be opened only when the U.S. imperialists, the very one who keeps the country divided and blocks reunification, are withdrawn from the southern half of the country.

Our people fail to join in the reunification movement on their own initiative although they cherish an ardent desire for reunification because they misunderstand reunification as a question of one side defeating and conquering the other.

If we are to achieve great national unity after the lapse of half a century at the latest, the military and political problems which are the cause of national distrust and confrontation between the North and the South must be set out as the requisite to national reunification, to begin with, Hwang Sok-yong said, and went on:

North-South dialogue may be held stage by stage, but the goal must be resolving fundamental problems.

Our people in the South should believe that they are not alone but the other half of their own self exists in the North in another form and have the conviction that millions of compatriots overseas trust us. We should oppose the moves of the U.S. imperialists and the traitors to maintain the status quo and their "two Koreas" policy, topple the military dictatorial regime and, at the same time, form a broad anti-U.S. national salvation front.

We should achieve steel-like unity to drive a handful of traitors and the foreign imperialist forces out of this land and should strengthen international solidarity with the world's progressive people to isolate the U.S. imperialists.

Hwang Sok-yong called for forming a permanent body and continuing the grand march toward reunification, not resting content with this pan-national rally.

Rally Commences in Panmunjom

SK1508110490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country was held today at the Tongil House in the area of our side at Panmunjom with a large attendance.

Put up inside and outside the rally place were large picture boards reading "Warm welcome to delegates to the pan-national rally!" "Compatriots in the North, South and abroad, unite under the banner of reunification!" and "Let the Korean nation unite to accelerate national reunification!" and slogans reading "Let's drive out U.S. forces and achieve national reunification!" and "Let's hold fast to three principles of national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity!"

Attending the rally were the delegates selected in the North, South and overseas.

Present there were Hwang Sok-yong, delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters; Kwak Tong-ui, head of the delegation of the promotion headquarters in Japan; co- delegate of the overseas promotion headquarters Yi Haeng-u, co-chairman of the promotion headquarters in North America; Chong Kyu-myong, head of the delegation of Koreans from Europe; Kang Il, head of the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union; and Yi Chol-chae, head of the delegation of Koreans in China.

Head of the delegation of Koreans in Japan So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), was present there.

Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally, was on hand.

In her opening address Yo Yon-ku, vice-chairwoman of the North's preparatory committee, stressed that the historic pan-national rally was declared open to the world at the end of the vigorous struggle to frustrate the obstructive moves of the separatist forces that continued in the North, the South and abroad for two years since the coalition of national democratic movement [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] (Chonminnyon), a patriotic organisation in the southern part of the country, initiated the rally in 1988.

Among the participants in the rally were aged patriotic figures and prominent persons who have devotedly struggled abroad for the sacred cause of reunification and bereft families of those who died while fighting for national reunification in the North, the South and abroad, she said, adding:

Many delegates of the South side who have waged an arduous struggle for a long time in hope of participating in the rally failed to come here owing to the persistent obstruction of the divisive forces, but Chonminnyon which initiated the pan-national rally dispatched its delegate through a third country. The current rally has thus become able to begin its work as a nationwide rally which can incorporate the general will of compatriots in the North, the South and abroad.

The participants in the rally observed a moment's silence in memory of the patriotic martyrs who fell down while fighting in the North, the South and abroad for the reunification of the country and its prosperity and development.

The rally chose three delegates from the North, the South and overseas to preside over the meeting.

The rally decided on the agenda item "For peace of the Korean peninsula and the promotion of independent and peaceful reunification of the country".

The rally formed a drafting committee.

The rally introduced congratulatory letters and messages to the rally from Koreans' organisations and Koreans overseas including Europe, America, China, the Soviet Union, Japan and in the North and the South.

Hwang Sok-yong, delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters; Kwak Tong-ui, delegate of the overseas promotion headquarters; and Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's preparatory committee, delivered keynote reports.

Delegates from the North, the South and overseas took the floor to express their determination.

The rally adopted a resolution of the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country, an appeal to compatriots at home and abroad, a letter to the authorities in the North and the South, a letter to the President of the United States and a letter to the secretary-general of the United Nations as documents of the rally.

Delegates Erect Monument

SK1508112290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1112 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—Delegates to the pan- national rally held a ceremony this afternoon at Panmunjom to mix earth from the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Pyongyang and from the Mangwoldong Cemetery in Kwangju, South Korea and erected a mixed-earth monument showing the desire for reunification in order to remember long the feats of the patriotic martyrs who fell on the road for national reunification.

Delegates of the North side came here with earth from the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Sinmi-ri on the suburbs of Pyongyang where the patriotic martyrs who died while devotedly struggling for the liberation of the country, the socialist construction and the cause of national reunification lie buried.

Delegates of Koreans overseas brought earth from the Mangwoldong Cemetery in Kwangju where the patriotic martyrs who were killed in the May, 1980, Kwangju popular uprising were buried.

After mixing the earth the participants erected a mixed-earth monument on it.

They laid a wreath and flowers before the monument and observed a moment's silence in memory of the patriotic martyrs.

Then followed a memorial tree-planting.

Cultural Festival in Panmunjom

SK1508150590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The compatriots at home and from overseas who had participated in the Pan- National Rally [PNR] for Peace and Reunification of the Country held a "Cultural Festival for Reunification" at Panmunjom this afternoon.

Home and overseas compatriots recited poems, sang songs and danced representing patriotism and desire for reunification.

The light music band of the central art propaganda squad struck up folk songs and music on the theme of reunification. The participants merrily danced to the tune of the song "Ongheya" circling around the PNR flag.

Especially, "Reunification Dance" and "Mother of the Homeland" choreographed and danced by Kim Myong-su, a delegate from the South of the culture division of the PNR, left deep impressions on the participants and were enthusiastically acclaimed by them for stirring up the desire for reunification.

The festival reached the climax in an atmosphere overflowing with feelings of compatriots at home and from abroad.

It ended with a chorus of "Our Wish Is Reunification" and "One Motherland".

Marchers Issue Statement

SK1508152090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The Mt. Paektu-Mt. Halla grand march team for the promotion of national reunification called a press conference here today and published a statement.

The march team repeatedly asked here the authorities of the South side to open the door and guarantee the safety of its members in order to continue the march up to Mt. Halla, but they blocked the southern trip of the team with no justifiable reason and ground, the statement points out, and says:

We bitterly denounce in the name of the entire fellow countrymen the authorities of the South side for blocking the march team for national reunification from passing through Panmunjom and marching southward up to Mt. Halla, branding their act as a challenge to our nation's desire for reunification.

The South side's area in Panmunjom is wrapped in a horrible atmosphere, in contrast to the fervent desire of the compatriots in the South of the country for reunification.

The horrible atmosphere prevailing in the South side's area in Panmunjom is quite contrary to the warm reunification desire growing in the area of the North side through which our march team has come.

We would like to ask the authorities of the South side.

Can you deny that the "special announcement" about opening of the South side's portion of Panmunjom and "grand inter-Korean exchanges of people" is a propaganda aimed at deceiving public opinion at home and abroad, even now when you block our march team from making a southern trip and the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters from visiting the North?

The despicable acts of the authorities of the South side fully reveal that their blatant advertisement about "grand exchange" and "visits of people" is all a sheer lie.

The Mt. Paektu-Mt. Halla grand march team for the promotion of national reunification committed to march up to Mt. Halla with the burning desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification will continue its march without a moment's interruption in order to make a breakthrough in the barrier of division and promote the historic mause of national reconciliation and unity and reunification.

The authorities of the South side will never evade the blame for blocking our march team.

Delegates View 'Concrete Wall'

SK1608052690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—The delegates to the pan- national rally saw at first hand the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets along the whole length of the military demarcation line [MDL] on August 15 and denounced the criminal act of the splittists.

Delegate Im Min-sik, general secretary of the overseas Korean promotion headquarters, said while watching the concrete wall built in the area south of the MDL that he could clearly understand now who wanted reunification and who was the splittist. He noted:

The South side claims in a far-fetched manner that there is no concrete wall and is advertising it as one "for defensive purpose". Judging from the terrain, however, its assertion is nothing but a pretext. The South Korean authorities built the reinforced concrete wall to freeze division from the beginning.

The concrete wall must be removed and free travel and full-scale opening be realised as the great leader President Kim Il-song proposed in the five-point policy of national reunification.

Delegate No Kil-nam, Central Committee member of the promotion headquarters in North America, said he could not agree to the claim that the reinforced concrete wall is an anti-tank barrier.

Saying that the concrete wall fully reveals the South side's divisive scheme, he stated: The successive "regimes" of South Korea have been "regimes" opposed to reunification, "regimes" which have been unwilling to reunify the country.

The concrete wall is not a mere wall but a wall of division that fully betrays the anti-reunification nature of the South Korean "regime".

The 70 million fellow countrymen should get united with the pan-national rally as an occasion and pull down the concrete wall, a symbol of national tragedy.

Sonu Hakwon, advisor to the promotion headquarters in North America for the pan-national rally, said: While seeing the concrete wall at first hand I have realized that the South side's propaganda that there is no concrete wall is a sheer lie.

He further said: For a dialogue for national reunification it is essential, above all, to pull down the concrete wall that exists now.

Only then can mutual confidence be built. Otherwise it is impossible to trust each other and have a dialogue.

The South Korean authorities have imprisoned Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik- hwan, Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon for visiting the North and announced that they would allow a delegation of "Chonminnyon" [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] to go to the pan-national rally only to block their road. This clearly shows that the South side's talk about dialogue and reunification is all sham.

Such being the situation, it is highly important for the activities to awaken our fellow compatriots for reunification that overseas compatriots have seen the concrete wall with their own eyes. The concrete wall must be destroyed at an early date.

Protest in Seoul Reported

SK1608060090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—The South side's promotion headquarters for the pan-national rally was stopped by combat police from heading for Panmunjom after holding a starting ceremony of the delegation to the pan-national rally [PNR] at the Plaza of Democracy of Yonsei University in Seoul at 8:30 A.M. Wednesday, according to a report.

It was participated in by some 15,000 students belonging to Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] and dissident figures.

Addressing the ceremony, Li Chang-pok, head of the delegation to the pan-national rally, said that they should participate in the PNR at Panmunjom and repudiate the interference of the foreign forces and strive to achieve great national unity and the independent reunification of the country.

After the ceremony some 400 delegates of Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] tried to march on foot together with about 5,000 students belonging to Chondaehyop.

When the No Tae-u fascist clique mobilized police to block their way, students staged a demonstration, hurling stones at police.

Yim Consolation Team Waits To Cross Border

SK1408111890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 14 (KCNA)—The consolation team for Yim Su-kyong today arrived at Panmunjom and went out to the ground in front of the Panmun pavilion at [words indistinct] morning for a consolation visit to woman student Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon and Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan.

The consolation team, however,cannot pass through Panmunjom owing to the obstructions of the South Korean authorities.

Head of the consolation team for Yim Su-kyong Yo Yon-ku, chairwoman of the Korean Committee of Struggle for the Release of Yim Su-kyong, and its members, Yi Chan, vice- chairman of the Korean students committee, and its members, Mun Chang-hak, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association, Rev. Kim On-pong, permanent member of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation, child poet Kim Il-sin, a primary course pupil of the Kumsong Senior Middle School, delegates of the Chongnyon delegation to the August 15 pan-national rally who joined the consolation team and home and Chongnyon reporters, some 60 in all, came to Panmunjom to go to South Korea.

Present there to see off the consolation team were leading officials of the party and power bodies and working organisations in Kaesong and the senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission.

They are waiting for members of the Society for Support to Yim Su-kyong and the council for supporting the imprisoned visitors to the North with earnest wish to console woman student Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon and Rev. Mun Ik-hwan who are suffering in prison and their families.

Team Issues Statement

SK1408113390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 14 (KCNA)—The consolation team for Yim Su-kyong issued a statement here today after it failed to enter South Korea due to the South Korean authorities' obstructions though it made efforts to pass through Panmunjom from ten this morning at the Panmun pavilion to see and console woman student Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon and the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan now in prison in South Korea and their families.

By crushing our ardent desire to visit and warmly console the messengers of reunification including woman student Yim Su-kyong on the occasion of the anniversary of the August 15 national liberation the South Korean authorities stripped themselves naked as ones who have abandoned even the elementary human morals and conscience and anti-reunification forces which oppose national reconciliation and unity and seek confrontation and division, the statement says, and goes on:

Moreover, they fully revealed to the whole nation and the world conscience that the South Korean chief executive's "special announcement" was nothing but a jugglery aimed at appeasing the daily growing desire of South Korean people for reunification and defusing the crisis.

We will never pardon the South Korean authorities' inhumanitarian, anti-reunification acts, the statement says, stressing: We will fight it out till our just demand is met.

ROK Priest Hunger Striking for Free Travel

SK1508054790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0542 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—Father Mun Kyu-hyon now in prison in South Korea has begun an indefinite hunger strike to back demands for free travel between the North and South of Korea, according to a foreign press report from Seoul.

I went to the prison yesterday and he was on hunger strike, his brother, Mun Chong-hyon, also a Catholic priest, told reporters on August 14.

Expressing resentment at the criminal act of the No Tae-u puppet clique in detaining Father Mun Kyu-hyon and other visitors to the North by invoking the fascist "National Security Law," he said:

We agreed that the No Tae-u "government's" unification policies are deceptive and they increase tensions instead of promoting the unification of the Korean peninsula.

No Tae-u last month said he would now seek free inter-Korean travel but my brother is still in jail for going to the North and a large number of police are blocking the route to the border.

More than 1,000 Catholic priests will hold masses tomorrow in churches across the country to pray for unification, Mun Chong-hyon said.

More Activities Mark Liberation From Japan

Wreath-Laying Ceremonies Held

SK1508104890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of national liberation party and government cadres, soldiers of the Korean People's Army and working people here today laid wreaths in the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mt. Taesong, the liberation tower on Moran Hill and the cemetery of Soviet Army officers and men in Sadong District, Pyongyang.

Attending the wreath-laying ceremonies were Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA], Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and vice-premier of the Administration Council, Yi Chong-yul, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society and minister of public health, leading officials of the party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs, organizations of working people, central organs, Korean- Soviet friendship organizations, KPA generals and soldiers and working people in the city.

Meanwhile, wreaths and bouquets were laid today on the liberation towers and cemeteries of Soviet Army officers and men in Chongjin, Hamhung, Sinuiju, Haeju and other areas.

President Attends Performance

SK1508151590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today saw an art performance given by kindergarten children on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of national liberation.

Seeing the performance together with him was woman writer of West Germany Luise Rinser on a visit to Korea.

The program included the girls' choruses "We Made a Deep Bow" and "The Lark Above Chong-il Peak", the solo dance "I Will Become a Table Tennis Queen," the kayagum (Korean harp) solo "Broad Bellflower in Golden Mountain", the jugglery "We Are Children of Talent", the song of quadruplet "Thank You, Marshal Kim Il-song" and the callisthenic exercise "We Have Nothing More To Desire."

The performers sang in excited tones of the great honor and joy in growing up healthily as the flower-buds of the country, while enjoying happiness with nothing more to desire in the bosom of the party and the leader.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience.

At the end of the performance, President Kim Il-song congratulated the children for their successful performance, waving to the enthusiastically cheering performers and audience.

Koreans in Japan Meet

SK1608050990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo August 15 (KNS-KCNA)—An all-Japan meeting of Korean residents was held at the Korean House of Culture in Tokyo on August 14 on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the August 15 national liberation.

Speaking at the meeting, Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), said that the national liberation was a historical event of weighty importance in shaping the destinies of Korea and the nation.

A history of great changes, a history of heroic victory, has been recorded in the northern half of the country since the country's liberation, the speaker said, adding:

Indeed, the 45 years following the liberation were glorious years in which the name of chuche Korea has been displayed all over the world and the dignity and honor of the nation have been elevated to the loftiest height.

The Korean people have fought throughout the 45 years for the reunification of the country, he said, stressing: We can no longer leave the country divided as it is.

The Korean nation is filled with the determination and conviction that they will achieve the reunification of the country at any cost by the year 1995, the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

He called upon all the Chongnyon functionaries and Koreans in Japan to wage a powerful struggle to implement the five-point policy for national reunification advanced by the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song and the positive disarmament proposal and the peace proposal of the DPRK, its embodiment.

Letter Sent to Kim Il-song

SK1608044590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo August 15 (KNS-KCNA)—A letter to the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song was adopted at a rally of Koreans in Japan marking the 45th anniversary of the August 15 liberation of Korea.

The letter dated August 14 notes that the great leader waged the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle for 20 years and accomplished the historic cause of national liberation on August 15, 1945. It says:

The victory of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the liberation of the country were a historic event of great importance in shaping our nation's destiny and a grand national jubilee which opened a bright future for the Korean people who had languished under the dark rule.

Since the liberation of the country, you the great leader have wisely led our people with bright rays of the chuche idea in the construction and struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism and built a powerful chuche-oriented socialist state on the once backward homeland so that the glory of Korea could be exalted throughout the world.

You the great leader opened a wide road of national rebirth to the Koreans in Japan who had been in the shameful lot of a ruined nation and formed and have wisely led Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan], a reliable organization of overseas citizens of the DPRK, so as to bring about a fundamental change in the work and life of Koreans in Japan.

The prosperity of the nation and the bright future of national reunification are possible only when we advance with fervent loyalty to you the great leader and under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Cherishing this as our unshakable faith, we will staunchly advance along the glorious road toward the victory of the chuche cause, always remaining loyal to you the great leader.

The letter sincerely wishes the respected leader Marshal Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Peace, Reunification Symposium Opens in Pyongyang

SK1408112690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A symposium on peace and reunification of the country opened at the grand People's Study House here today.

The symposium is attended by delegates of Koreans at home and from abroad to the pan-national rally and working people from different strata of the capital city, more than 1,600 all told.

The plenary session of the symposium is followed by divisional debates on peace, reunification and movement.

Being discussed at the peace division are: Removing the danger of a war and ensuring peace on the Korean peninsula is an indispensable condition for national reunification; withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea is a prerequisite to national reunification; creation of an international atmosphere favourable for the solution of the Korean question is an important condition for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

At the reunification division sincere discussions are focused on that it is urgent to find a common way of reunification of the nation at present, that removing the concrete wall in the area south of the MDL [military demarcation line] and realizing free travel and total opening are basic conditions for national reunification and on problems arising in developing North-South dialogues.

At the movement division the tasks facing the compatriots at home and abroad in achieving reunification in the 1990s and on the national reunification movement and tasks of the workers and the women are being discussed.

Nearly twenty compatriots at home and from abroad are having open-hearted debates on the abovesaid problems to find concrete solutions at the three divisions.

Debate Continues

SK1408223790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1628 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A debate at the division of the movement for peace and reunification of the country was held today at the Grand People's Study House here.

Present there were delegates at home and from abroad to the pan-national rally and working people of all strata in the capital city, more than 400 in all.

Kim Chi-yong (female), delegate from Japan, Kim Yong-nam and Chong Myong-sun (female), delegates from the North side, Kim Yong-ae (female), delegate from the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), Yi Han- kyong, delegate from Europe, Kim Yong-hui, delegate from Americas, and Yang Yong-pong, delegate from China, to the pan-national rally spoke on the themes of tasks of compatriots at home and abroad in achieving national reunification in the 1990s and the movement of national reunification and tasks of workers and women.

The speakers unanimously held that the compatriots in the North, the South and abroad, the internal force of reunification, should achieve great unity, transcending differences in idea, political view and religious belief, and wage a powerful nationwide movement for national reunification.

They stressed that compatriots in the North, the South and abroad should form a pan-national united front under the banner of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, and wage an active struggle to create a favourable climate for national reunification in the North, the South and abroad.

They called for turning out in one body to reunify the country in the '90s without fail, setting the reunification of the country as the foremost task facing the nation at present.

South Parties Demand Nullification of Bills

SK1308215390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 13 (KCNA)—The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy and Democratic Party of South Korea August 10 demanded again the nullification of the 26 evil laws railroaded at the extraordinary session of the puppet National Assembly, according to a report.

These parties said that the 26 bills rammed through the "National Assembly" by the "Democratic Liberal Party" are invalid because they were passed in disregard of legislative procedures. They submitted a request for its judgment to the "court of constitution."

The bill was signed by 79 National Assemblymen who resigned from the "National Assembly" last month and 33 lawyers affiliated with these opposition parties.

President Awards 'National Reunification Prize'

SK1508151090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, promulgated a decree of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK on awarding the "National Reunification Prize" to the patriotic figures in the North and the South and abroad.

The decree dated August 15 said that on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the country's liberation, the "National Reunification Prize" was awarded to the patriotic figures who made a great contribution to the sacred cause of achieving national sovereignty and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in the North and the South and abroad under the uplifted banner of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

Among 112 recipients are Kim Chaek, Ho Hon, Kang Yang- uk, Choe Tok-sin, Kim Ku, Kim Kyu-sik, Yo Un-hyong, Cho Pong-am, Kim Chong-tae, Choe Yong-to, Kim Song-rak, Mun Ik- hwan, Yim Su-kyong, Mun Kyu-hyon, Han Tok-su, Yun I-sang, Choe Hong-hui and Sonu Hak-won, according to the decree.

* Daily Decries U.S. Asia-Pacific Strategy

902C0259A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 21 Jun 90 p 6

[Article by Yi Sok-yun: "The U.S. Imperialists' Asia-Pacific Strategy and War Maneuvers in South Korea"]

[Text] Despite the denunciations of our people and the peoples of the world, the U.S. imperialists, making South Korea their jumping-off point, have recently been frenziedly carrying out war maneuvers for an invasion of the North in order to strike important targets in the northern part of the republic.

As has already been reported, even as early as June the U.S. imperialists carried out a large-scale mobilization of the U.S. troops who are forcibly occupying South Korea and the puppet army's infantry, mechanized infantry units, special warfare units, aviation units, artillery, tanks, and armored vehicle units and conducted offensive tactical exercises, river-crossing exercises, and artillery-integrated maneuvers near the Military Demarcation Line. At the same time, the U.S. aggressors dragged into South Korea many aircraft from Japan and other areas in the Asia and Pacific region and are frenziedly carrying out air attack maneuvers with U.S. and puppet military aircraft. In May, the U.S. imperialists also dragged into South Korea various kinds of aircraft from overseas bases and continuously carried out this kind of war maneuver.

During the period of the large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers conducted together with the South Korean puppets, the U.S. imperialists hauled into South

Korea large numbers of U.S. troops and combat technology and equipment from bases in the Asia and Pacific region. However, we rarely see such large numbers of various aircraft being brought in from overseas bases in this area and furiously conducting air warfare exercises as we have witnessed recently. The U.S. imperialists' war maneuvers, which are being strengthened by the day, are of an extremely dangerous, provocative nature. Such facts once again demonstrate clearly that South Korea is becoming a key area, an outpost base for carrying out the U.S. imperialists' Asia-Pacific strategy.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught as follows:

"While strengthening its scheme to make "Two Koreas" in order to seize South Korea forever as a colonial military base according to its aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy, the United States now is also dragging in nuclear weapons and large numbers of various instruments of modern warfare into South Korea and is frequently launching large-scale war maneuvers such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in South Korea and its environs."

The U.S. imperialists regard the Asia-Pacific region as very important in carrying out their global strategy. In this area there many strategic goods urgently needed by the United States' rapacious munitions monopolies and here are concentrated a number of strategic military points. Because of this, the U.S. imperialists are saying things like, "The 21st century is the era of the Pacific" and "The future of the United States is linked to the Asia-Pacific region" and have predicated the seizure of this region as a basic prerequisite for achieving its ambition of world hegemony and is turning its vanguard of aggression to this area. The objective the U.S. imperialists are pursuing in the Asia- Pacific region is to constrain by armed might the progressive forces of socialism and establish supremacy and domination over this area. The reason the U.S. imperialists today are linking the various regions of the Asia and Pacific into a network of military bases and permanently deploying large numbers of military weapons and powerful army, navy, and air force contingents into this area is to achieve this objective entirely by force.

South Korea occupies a central position in the accomplishment of the U.S. imperialists' Asia-Pacific strategy. As everyone knows, South Korea not only is the United States' only advanced base directly connected to the Asian continent, but also is closest to Japan, its junior partner in the Asia-Pacific region. Also, South Korea is a complete colony of the U.S. imperialists and is entirely under their domination politically, economically, and militarily. There they also have an enormous puppet military establishment, which is cheap cannon fodder that the U.S. imperialists can use as they please any time they want. It is no coincidence that the U.S. imperialists attach immense significance to the position of South Korea, designating it as "The first line of U.S. strategy," and transforming it into an anti-communist bastion, an advanced military outpost.

The U.S. imperialists are carrying out a policy of power, continuing to firmly hold on to South Korea as their colonial military base by perpetuating the division of Korea and making it a stepping stone for contending against our republic and the socialist nations. Within South Korea the U.S. imperialists are trying to suppress the people's spirit of reunification and outside the country they are playing games of "cross contacts," "cross recognition," and "unilateral UN admission" and trying to legalize internationally the scheme of fabricating "two Koreas." Also, they are accelerating their military buildup and intensifying their military exercises in South Korea while seeking to complete preparations for a northward invasion. The U.S. imperialists have turned South Korea into the biggest nuclear base in the Far East and here they not only routinely deploy some 1,000 nuclear weapons and 40,000 U.S. troops, but also are continuously reinforcing their nuclear capability. Behind the curtain of their deceptive "reduction," the U.S. imperialists are continuing to carry out nuclear war maneuvers while equipping the U.S. troops forcibly occupying South Korea and its puppet troops with more modern combat technology and equipment and supplies.

It is no secret that special forces and aircraft capable of transporting nuclear weapons are taking part in the air strike maneuvers that have been intensely carried out since May on the heels of the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises. The U.S. imperialists intend to carry out nuclear strikes against important targets in the northern part of Korea with such aircraft and "special forces."

All these facts reveal that the U.S. imperialists' military bases in the Asia-Pacific region are serving the U.S. imperialists' strategic requirements for provoking and pursuing a new invasion of the North with South Korea as its base of operations and that the U.S. imperialists' airplanes, naval combatants, and missiles based here are targeted against Korea. That U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney has said that "If there is any place on the globe a conflict could expand into a war, that is the Korean peninsula" exposes the United States' intentions to focus its Asia-Pacific strategy on the Korean peninsula and ignite the flames of nuclear war there at any risk. In point of fact, the U.S. imperialists are falling back on the preposterous pretext of a nonexistent "threat of southward invasion" and intend to keep U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea forever and "maintain a powerful military capability" in the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. imperialists' war maneuvers, which are intensifying by the day, show that their talk of "detente" and "disarmament" is nothing more than a ruse to deceive public opinion at home and abroad and that what they are really pursuing is merely an anachronistic policy of confrontation.

Only when the situation on the Korean peninsula is eased and peace is guaranteed can peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region be achieved. We recently have been putting forth disarmament proposals for peace on the Korean peninsula and are actively making efforts for its realization. If the U.S. imperialists really desire peace, they should adopt substantive measures in order to ease the tense situation on the Korean peninsula, remove the threat of war, and achieve a firm peace there by accepting our disarmament proposal. To do that, above all they should change their obsolete policy toward Korea. Whether peace is guaranteed on the Korean peninsula is completely dependent on the position and attitude of the United States.

Soviet Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang 13 Aug

SK1308215790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 13 (KCNA)—A delegation of Soviet Army journalists led by Lieutenant General Ivan Panov, editor-in-chief of the paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society led by Svetlana Ivanovna SHVETSOVA, vice-chairman of the permanent committee of the union, and a delegation of the Soviet war veterans' committee led by retired Admiral V.M. Grishanov, member of the presidium of tHe committee, arrived here today by air.

Army Chief Meets Soviet Naval, Air Delegations

SK1408152890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1617 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang today met and had a conversation in a friendly atmosphere with the leading members of a flotilla of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet led by Vice-Admiral Anatoly Oleinik [spelling as received], first deputy commander of the fleet, the leading members of a flying corps of the Soviet Air Force led by Maj. Gen. [Major General] Yuri Morozov, chief of staff of the Flying Corps of the Anti-Air Force of the Soviet Union, a delegation of the Soviet War Veterans Committee led by retired Admiral V.M. Grishanov, member of its Presidium, and a delegation of Soviet Army journalists led by Lt. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Ivan Panov, editor-in-chief of the paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Present on the occasion were officials concerned and Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich.

Soviet Ties Lauded at Anniversary Banquet

SK1508085290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0551 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave a banquet at Oknyu Restaurant Tuesday evening on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the country's liberation.

Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, and other cadres were present at the banquet.

Present were Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich, embassy officials and Soviet delegations and guests staying in our country.

Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, made a speech at the banquet.

The liberation of our motherland was a great victory achieved by the communists and people of Korea through their protracted heroic struggle and a historical event which opened a new epoch in the struggle of our people for sovereignty, independence and socialism, speaker said, and went on:

The history of victory in which our people accomplished the cause of liberation is associated with the feats of the Soviet Army which fought together with the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. Our people always remember the noble spirit displayed by the officers and men of the Soviet Army in the battles to annihilate the Japanese imperialist aggression forces stationed in Korea.

The friendly relations between Korea and the Soviet Union have a long tradition. The two peoples have consolidated and developed the bonds of friendship and solidarity on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism after the August 15 liberation of Korea.

The present situation makes it incumbent upon the two countries to substantially and sincerely implement commitments of alliance in the spirit of friendship and cooperation. To do so is of weighty significance in developing the traditional Korean-Soviet relations of cooperation and in preserving peace and security in the Asia-Pacific.

He extended firm solidarity with the Soviet people in their struggle to carry out socio-political and economic tasks, strengthen the might of the country as a whole and safeguard world peace and security.

Ambassador Gennadiy Bartoshevich spoke next.

The liberation of Korea opened a new stage in the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Korea, he said, and stressed: These relations of friendship and cooperation will invariably develop on the basis of the Soviet-Korean treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

The Soviet Union will make all possible efforts to strengthen and develop the friendly relations between the two countries according to the agreement reached at the meeting between Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Comrade Kim Il-song in October 1986, he noted, and added:

The Soviet Union supports the DPRK proposals to ease the tension of the country and provide a prerequisite to the political settlement of the questions existing on the Korean peninsula. This will contribute to improving the situation of the Asia-Pacific.

He wished that the working people of Korea would successfully carry out the vast tasks of socialist construction set forth at the Supreme People's Assembly held some time ago and carry through the constructive initiatives for national reunification.

Japan Socialist Party Group Arrives in Wonsan

SK1608101190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—A friendship visiting group of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] headed by lower house member Taneaki Tanami, member of the Central Executive Committee and director of the Information Department of the JSP, arrived in Wonsan today by the ship "Samjiyon".

Working people in the city warmly welcomed the members of the visiting group at the wharf, shouting "welcome" and "friendship" and waving bunches of flowers.

The visiting group was met by Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; Kim Yo-hyon, secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the WPK Central Committee; Yi Chong-il, vice-chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee.

The members of the group marched through the streets, holding placards reading "Support to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea !" "Long live friendship and solidarity between the Japan Socialist Party and the Workers' Party of Korea !" And shouting "Korea is one " "Let us build nuclear-free peace zone in Asia !"

Film Show Celebrates Korea-Vietnam Association

SK1408050990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A film show was given in Pyongyang on August 13 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Association.

Present on invitation were Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Nguyen Van Trong and his embassy officials.

Present there were Yi Kwan-su, vice-chairman of the Education Commission, and concurrently chairman of the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Association, and other officials concerned.

The participants saw a Korean feature film.

Kim Yong-nam Attends Castro Birthday Reception

SK1408052790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang Aaugust 14 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a reception at the People's Palace of Culture Monday on the occasion of the 64th birthday of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Present were Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier, and others.

Invited there were Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador E.P. to Korea, and his embassy officials and Cuban guests staying here.

Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, made a speech.

He warmly congratulated Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on his 64th birthday, and said that his birth was a national event that heralded the dawn of the Cuban revolution.

The glorious, protracted course of struggle covered by the Cuban people is unthinkable apart from the energetic activities of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz who has guided the Cuban revolution ever since his youth, he said.

The particular intimacy and the revolutionary obligation between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz became a solid foundation stone of friendship and solidarity between Korea and Cuba, he noted, adding: victory and glory are always in store for the two peoples who convincingly advance along the road of socialism, holding the outstanding leaders in high esteem.

Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega spoke next.

He said that the talks between Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme leader of the Cuban people, and the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song in 1986 were recorded in golden letters in the history of the development of friendly relations between the two parties and peoples.

He recalled that during his visit to Korea, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz expressed the invariable support of the Cuban people to the Korean people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and laid stress on advancing shoulder to shoulder with the Korean people until Korea is reunified into one.

Noting that both Cuba and Korea have an honorable duty to defend socialism in the Western and Eastern Hemispheres, he stressed that to this end, the two peoples should give full play to all their creativity.

Public Health Delegation Departs for Iran Visit

SK1608101490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—A DPRK public health delegation led by Im Song-chae, vice-minister of public health, left here today on a visit to Iran.

Secretary General Gian Carlo Elia Valori of the Italian Institute of International Relations, and an Ecuadorial delegation for the study of chuche idea led by Daniel Clados Munoz, director of the Guayaqil University of Ecuador, arrived here.

O Chin-u Sends Greeting to Algerian Counterpart

SK1608043990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 16 (KCNA)—Vice-Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to his Algerian counterpart Major General Hhaled Nezzar.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two armies would continue to expand and develop favorably, the message wished him success in his responsible work for the increase of defence capabilities as well as good health.

Yi Chong-ok Attends Ceremony for Cameroonian

SK1408051390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A ceremony was held here Monday to award the title of doctor of philosophy of the DPRK to Prof. [Professor] Mono Ndjana Hubert of University of Yaounde who is also secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the People's Democratic rally of Cameroon.

Present at the ceremony were Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, president of the Chuche Idea Academy Yi Chi-su and foreign guests staying in Korea.

A diploma and medal of doctorate were awarded to Mono Ndjana Hubert who greatly contributed to the development of social science by writing the book "Revolution and Creation" and publishing treatises of philosophy on the basis of the ideology, theory and method of chuche.

Speeches were made at the ceremony.

Editorial on Learning From Mt. Paektu 'Spirit'

SK1308111390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 13 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today calls for assiduously learning from the revolutionary spirit and traits of Mt. Paektu displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners.

In an editorial dedicated to the 45th anniversary of the historical victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the paper says:

With the imperialists' anti-socialist moves getting more vicious, we must make the whole country replete with the revolutionary spirit and traits of Mt. Paektu so as to smash the moves of the enemy.

If the party members and working people are to live and fight in the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu, they should, first of all, deeply study the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle and work hard to embody them.

The infinite loyalty to the leader, devoted service to the people, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and the indomitable fighting spirit displayed by the anti- Japanese revolutionary forerunners are a shining pattern to be always followed by us.

Our party members and working people must learn from the conviction of sure victory cherished by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, have the faith of chuche that our revolutionary cause guided by the great leader and the great party will surely emerge triumphant and give full play to the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle.

Noting that it is also important to follow the militant and revolutionary way of cultural and emotional life that was prevalent in the forest of Mt. Paektu, the editorial calls for keeping heightened vigilance against the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration and smashing them.

Tenth Anniversary of Kim Il-song Work Noted

SK1308110290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 13 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Monday carries an article on the 10th anniversary of the historical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song "The Role of Intellectuals in Building an Independent New Society" (August 14, 1980).

The work is a historical work which gave a profound exposition of the importance of settlement of the question of intellectuals and summed up successes and experience gained by our party in shaping the correct policy of intellectuals.

The article says:

Our party worked out a correct policy of intellectuals and has consistently carried it through in the whole period of the revolution and construction, solving successfully the question of intellectuals.

President Kim Il-song said:

"We recognized intellectuals, to say nothing of workers and peasants, as a component of the main force of the revolution. The validity of this view of ours has been proved clearly in the course of building socialism."

What is important in our party's experience in successfully solving the question of intellectuals is, first of all, that our party believed intellectuals and defined them as a motive force of our revolution, as a component of the main internal forces.

The great leader had analysed the position and role of intellectuals in the revolutionary struggle and the characteristics of our intellectuals from the independent point of view and, on this basis, he defined the working intellectuals as a component of the motive force of our revolution in the early period of the revolution. When he was founding the party after the liberation of the country he included intellectuals in the component of our party along with workers and peasants. The emblem of our party bears a hammer and a sickle, which symbolize workers and peasants, as well as a writing brush symbolic of intellectuals. This shows a lofty will of our party which has firmly believed intellectuals as eternal companions of the revolution, not as temporary ones, and regarded them as a component of the main internal forces.

In solving the question of intellectuals our party advanced the policy of making intellectuals revolutionary, which is of weighty importance.

Trusting old intellectuals and enhancing their role, our party has reared intellectuals of new generations on an extensive scale and, at the same time, made big efforts to make all intellectuals revolutionary and assimilate them to the working class.

The article points out that our party's policy toward intellectuals is displaying great vitality in practice.

The vitality has been displayed in great contributions of intellectuals to the building of the party and state, building of a socialist economy and culture and to the development of science and technology.

Cherishing it as their faith that the road of socialism of our style advancing under the banner of the chuche idea is the most correct road, all our intellectuals remain loyal to the leadership of our party.

The most successful solution of the question of intellectuals in our country is attributable to the great loving care of the respected leader President Kim Il-song and to the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, stresses the article.

South Korea

Further Reaction to Iraqi Moves in Persian Gulf

Koreans To Leave Via Jordan

SK1608073190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0706 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Koreans stranded in Iraq will be evacuated to Jordan and then airlifted home on Saturday.

Korea will shift all of its 1,380 citizens from Iraq and Kuwait, except "essential personnel," to Jordan, banning them from fleeing to Saudi Arabia, under an agreement with the Iraqi Government. A large number of the Koreans are construction workers helping Iraq rebuild from its war with Iran.

A government official said about 200 Koreans are expected to arrive in Jordan from Iraq by Saturday. So far, 52 Koreans have entered Jordan over the Iraqi borders with Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, 17 of the 25 Koreans who arrived in Jordan on Tuesday left on Wednesday night and will arrive in Seoul on Saturday via Bangkok, the Foreign Ministry said.

Crisis Causing Economic Damage

SK1508005690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] The adverse effects of the Middle East crisis are beginning to spill over and damage various sectors of the domestic economy. Local exporters have suspended their shipments to the region and some companies who had Iraqi drafts cashed by international discounters may have to repay them, business sources said yesterday. Businesses, concerned about the unexpected prolongation of conflict, are hurriedly departing from the region, while the government is considering the postponement of dishonoring bills of exchange issued by the damaged exporters to the banks during L/C (letter of credit) negotiations.

Koreans firms are expected to incur a combined loss of about 1 trillion won ($1.5 billion) due to failed payments by Iraq. General contractors operating in Iraq, which have combined order receipts of $6 billion in the country, are suffering from more than $900 million in overdue payments plus some $600 million worth of matured bills for which Korean firms will have to settle if Iraq refuses to do so, they said. Hyundai Engineering and Construction are likely to be hit the hardest with about $500 million worth of such bills. The government, in this regard, plans to discourage new order receipts by Korean firms in the region unless the situation improves. Korean exporters also lost about $400 million in failed shipments to Kuwait and Iraq. The country's petrochemical companies, which have already been troubled by overcapacity problems, will see their competitive edge further weaken and shipping lines will also suffer damage due to doubled insurance premiums on loading.

The government should switch from the previous short-term measures in coping with the Middle East situation to comprehensive, long-term steps, taking all sectors of the economy into account, the sources said. Meanwhile, Hyundai Construction has decided to withdraw from Iraq and evacuation talks are under way with the Iraqi Government, according to company officials. The decision came because the Korean contractor can no longer continue work due to lack of raw materials caused by multinational economic sanctions, they said. The company has reportedly been approved by the Iraqi authorities on the evacuation but is unable to carry out transportation. Due to air space blockade, Hyundai workers should use the land route to Jordan, officials said, adding that other Korean construction firms may follow Hyundai's lead.

North Hints May Cancel Prime Ministers' Talks

SK1608091490 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 16 Aug 90 p 1

[By correspondent Pak Chun-sok from New York]

[Text] On 15 August, North Korea dropped a strong hint that it may cancel talks between the prime ministers of the South and North scheduled for 4 September.

In a letter to the United Nations Security Council, which the North Korean observer mission in the United Nations distributed among member states, North Korea said that South Korea and the United States have continued military buildup and military provocations against North Korea even after the North and the South agreed on 26 July to hold talks between prime ministers of the two sides and that this poses a serious hindrance to the North-South High-Level Talks.

This document, which was submitted to the UN Security Council on 10 August and distributed to the UN member states on 15 August, said: "Even after the North and South agreed to hold high-level talks between prime ministers of the two sides to discuss how to reduce political and military tensions on the Korean peninsula as the central theme, South Korea and the United States have continued military buildup and military provocations against the opposing party to dialogue and there is no way of construing this other than an act jeopardizing the North-South High-Level Talks."

The document stated that "military buildup and military moves as such have created a serious obstruction to the North-South High- Level Talks" and asked the UN Security Council to exercise its influence on South Korea and the United States to make them refrain from undertaking acts that aggravate tensions and pay attention to creating a peaceful atmosphere for successful North-South high-level talks.

The document cited the U.S. Administration's notification to the U.S. Congress of a decision to sell 120 F-18 fighters to South Korea; a decision to sell to South Korea military hardware worth $33 million, including 21 Sparrow missiles; and the South Korean Government's 1990 plan to purchase military hardware worth $1.5 billion, which includes an assortment of U.S.-made combat equipment and 70 fighters manufactured in Europe as evidence of the military buildup that South Korea and the United States have carried out.

Dissidents Cancel Pan-National Rally Events

SK1608023790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean dissidents have cancelled events scheduled for Thursday and Friday because they were unable to attend a unification rally in the northern half of the truce village of Panmunjom on Wednesday.

The southern-side rally organizers said they will hold only a closing ceremony for their week of unification activities in Seoul on Friday, virtually bringing an end to all hope of gatherings with North Koreans.

Members of the Catholic Priests' Association for Justice, who wanted to go to Pyongyang to celebrate mass, said they will hold a service at Imjingak, a rest area south of the border village, on Thursday afternoon. The dissidents issued a statement charging that the rally was aborted because of "violent oppression" by the South Korean Government. Among the dissidents, there is disagreement over the contents of a resolution adopted at the rally in the North on Wednesday. Some want to reject it and adopt their own resolution, while others insisted a joint statement be adopted.

On Wednesday, police blocked thousands of students and dissidents from marching to the truce village for the unification rally after a ceremony at Yonsei University in western Seoul. Thousands of riot police closed all entrances to Yonsei when students and dissidents tried to march out shouting unification, anti-government and anti-American slogans.

More than 20 students staged protests on a street leading to Chongwadae, the presidential office and residence, before they were all arrested by police. Groups of students and dissidents also staged demonstrations on a road to Imjingak near Munsan and clashed with riot police, according to the police. In all, 466 students and dissidents were arrested but most later released, a police spokesman said. Several policemen and demonstrators were injured.

Police posted more than 13,000 riot troops around Yonsei and roads to Imjingak to prevent students and dissidents from reaching the truce village, he said. On the northern side of the heavily guarded border on Wednesday, about 500 North Koreans and overseas Koreans held a rally for two hours, a government official said. The ralliers didn't try to cross the border into the south to continue their march to Mt. Halla on the southernmost island of Cheju, the official said.

Earlier in the day, the northern side asked to the southern side to guarantee that the ralliers would be guided by officials from Chonminnyon, the southern-side organizer of the rally, and be given a memorandum guaranteeing their safety, he said. The southern government said it was ready to guarantee their safety but any North Koreans in the party must be guided by South Korean Government officials, he said. The North rejected the South Korean offer and criticized the South for frustrating their border crossing and march by failing to guarantee their safety, the official said.

The rally on the northern side was attended by leading North Koreans, including Yo Yon-ku, vice chairwoman of the Committee for Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland, Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the organizing committee for the rally, and Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the organizing committee, he said.

It is unlikely that any South or North Koreans will cross the border during the Aug 13-17 grand exchanges of people proposed by President No Tae-u, the official said. The Seoul Government said it would not allow South Koreans to attend the rally because North Korea refused to accept a list of visitors and would not guarantee their safety. The North, rejecting the requirement, demanded that the South not meddle in civilian contacts between the divided halves of Korea.

Soviet Policies Causing 'Difficulties' for DPRK

SK1508130090 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 15 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] It seems that North Korea is experiencing considerable difficulties from economic pressure as a result of the deterioration of North Korea-USSR relations connected with the rapid improvement of ROK-USSR relations.

A government source said, "The Soviet Union has recently increased the price of oil supplied to North Korea to the international market price from the previous level of half the international market price at which the Soviet Union has supplied its oil to its fraternal socialist countries. The Soviet Union went one step further and demanded that North Korea make the payment for the oil with hard currency, such as U.S. dollars and German marks. This resulted in a drastic decrease in the oil imported from the Soviet Union, causing damage to the North Korean economy. We have received information that this is causing serious difficulties in the industries in Hamgyong and Kangwon Provinces on the east coast, areas under the Soviet economic influence."

This source continued, "We hear that the Soviet Union withdrew its nuclear technological advisers's group it had dispatched to the nuclear power plant in Yongbyon, North Pyongan Province, suspended the supply of parts and the technological transfer of modern weapons, such as MIG-29's, and demanded that North Korea pay back its debt estimated at about $2 billion. This Soviet pressure on North Korea should be regarded as a pressure demanding acceptance of the perestroyka policy, which Soviet President Gorbachev has been pushing ahead, and this will have an impact on North-South relations as well."

At present, North Korea is refusing to accept perestroyka, the Soviet policy of openness and reform, as the East European countries did, saying, "We will do it our own way."

It also seems that the Soviet Union is urging North Korea to actively come forward to North-South dialogue and to abandon its closed policy in conformity with the world trend as ROK-USSR relations continue to improve.

The government source recalled the remarks by a high-ranking government official who participated in the ROK-USSR ministerial talks held in Moscow on 2-3 August and who noted that the Soviet side, touching on North-South relations, said that "since the Soviet Union has clearly informed North Korea of its position, North Korea is well aware of it." He then added, "It seems that the Soviet Union has decided to make North Korea open itself up and accept the perestroyka policy. We think that Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to North Korea on 7 September will mark a significant turning point in Soviet-North Korean relations."

*North Korean Military Strength Examined

902C0255A Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean No 697, 22 Jun 90 pp 1A-6A

[Unattributed report: "The Current State of North Korea's Military Strength and Forces Deployment"]

[Text] Seoul (NAEWOE TONGSIN)—The Defense White Paper issued by the ROK Ministry of National Defense in December 1989 gives 980,000 as North Korea's total military manpower strength. On the other hand, the British International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in its 1989-1990 Military Balance issue determined the North Korean military manpower strength at 1.04 million, and a more recent estimate given by another research institute at the end of May 1990 was 1.2 million. The American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) concurs with the view that North Korea's current military manpower strength "exceeds the 1 million mark."

In the world today, only the following seven countries maintain a standing army exceeding 1 million men: the Soviet Union (4.26 million out of a population of 287.77 million); China (3.03 million out of a population of 1,104.87 million); the United States (2,125,000 out of a population of 248.92 million); India (1.26 million out of a population of 874.32 million); Vietnam (1.25 million out of a population of 64.04 million); North Korea; and Iraq (1 million out of a population of 17.84 million). Of these seven, Vietnam is in the process of drastically reducing its military forces as a result of the settlement of the Cambodian question; Iraq has already reduced its military manpower strength to the level of 800,000 following the end of the war with Iran. To the surprise of experts, this leaves North Korea, which has a population of no more than 22.23 million, as the fifth largest military strength in the world after the Soviet Union, China, the United States, and India, each of which has a population of hundreds of millions.

As paramilitary forces, North Korea maintains 810,000 strong Red Youth Guards, 1.24 million strong paramilitary training units, and 3.8 million strong Worker-Peasant Red Guards. The combined total of the regular army and paramilitary forces reaches 7 million, or one-third of the total population. Members of paramilitary training units receive 500 hours of military training per year, and they are divided into divisions similar to regular army divisions in organization and equipment.

North Korea's ground forces consist of 15 corps (eight regular, four mechanized, one tank, one artillery, and one capital defense command); artillery units; 32 infantry divisions, 23 mechanized divisions, and 14 tank divisions/brigades under the Mechanized Command; and 22 special brigades for special operations. If the 23 paramilitary training divisions are included, the ground forces are made up of a total of 114 divisions and brigade-level mobile units. In addition, 30 artillery divisions/brigades are maintained as fire-power support units. The ground forces are comprised of really enormous combat units.

Sixty-one regular divisions and brigades of the ground forces are deployed in the front line areas below the Pyongyang-Wonsan (Pyongwon) railway line, making it possible to mount an instant attack without any redeployment or rearrangement of forces. On the front line, the 1st and 5th Corps and the 2d and 4th Corps are deployed from east to west, maintaining formations easy to move or mount an offensive. Deployed behind them are the 3d and 7th corps, the Capital Defense Command in vertical and horizontal formations. The 6th and 8th Corps are stationed in the rear areas, and there are nine district commands, one for each administrative province. The tank corps, the mainstay assault force, is stationed in Songwol-ri in the west, and the mechanized corps are stationed in Kobultong and Kosan near the front line. They are deployed in such a way that they may be heavily thrown into blitzkrieg to expand the combat results. The remaining two mechanized corps are stationed in Chongju and the Oro area as reinforcement units.

The North Korean ground forces seldom retire old models of weapons and tend to maintain a large stock of weapons, keeping old models along with the latest ones. Take the tanks for example. They still keep T-34 tanks along with imitation T-62 and T-72 tanks, the latest models. The combined total of these old and new model tanks is 3,500. In addition, they have such new model weapons as M-1983 combat armored cars, self-propelled guns, multiple-rocket launchers, AT-3's, ATMs, SCUD-BSSMs. These are modernized combat gear on the whole. In particular, they have more than 8,000 pieces of mechanized equipment, including tanks, 1,960 armored cars, and self-propelled guns; and the ground forces are so equipped as to be able to break through fortresses through coordination among infantry, tank, and artillery units. There are also river-crossing engineers equipped with 500 amphibious vehicles and about 2,300 S-type prefabricated pontoon bridges for the rapid crossing of rivers encountered in combat operations.

There are more than 100,000 members of the highly trained special units. Of this total, the number of personnel capable of making a simultaneous intrusion from the sea and air is estimated at more than 18,000. Presumably, by using these special units in special warfare, North Korea may attempt to wage a war throughout South Korea simultaneously, unfolding merciless guerrilla operations.

The trend of reinforcement in the North Korean ground forces in the last several years shows that tank and mechanized divisions have been fragmented into the brigade level; and armored, mechanized, and self-propelled artillery corps were newly organized into brigade-level units in order to maximize their capability for mechanized operations to suit the geographical terrain of the Korean Peninsula. On the other hand, North Korea has produced an imitation version of the Soviet mainstay T-72 tank, introduced 23-mm self-propelled antiaircraft guns, and deployed an improved operational model of the SCUD missile after succeeding in extending their range through its own development efforts. North Korea did not hesitate to test its combat readiness by expanding large-scale combat exercises at the corps level in a terrain similar to the potential axis of attack on Seoul.

The North Korean Navy is divided into the East and West Fleets, commanding nine and five squadrons respectively. The East and West Fleets have 380 and 260 vessels respectively. Of the total, 480 or more are combat vessels, and more than two-thirds are stationed in forward bases (Sagot, Changjon, Wonsan, and Chodo). These combat vessels consist of 24 submarines, destroyers, patrol craft escorts, guided-missile launching ships, and fire-power support ships, in addition to a large number of landing ships. The guided-missile ships, equipped with STYX surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 25 nautical miles, are capable of launching a surprise attack against ships in waters adjacent to the South Korean territory. Presumably, by using submarines and a large number of submersible craft, North Korea may make an attempt at launching underwater attacks, disrupting sea transportation, laying mines, shelling coastal areas, and stealthily infiltrating by special forces in all South Korean waters.

On the east and west coasts of North Korea, Samlet (with a range of 85 km) and Silkworm ground-launched missiles are deployed, and Silkworm missiles deployed in the forward area are capable of striking Inchon and outer

Sokcho Port. In addition, if a missile fire network is organized with STYX missiles and the ground forces' SCUD and FROG missiles, entire South Korea will come within the range of missile attack.

The recent trend of the North Korean Navy indicates that while continuing to build attack ships such as submarines and guided-missile ships, North Korea has carried out the domestic production of Silkworm missiles, the remodeling of the underwater fins of torpedo boats, and the development of super-high speed hydrofoil landing ships capable of landing one platoon-strength naval unit on the target coast in an assault operation. More than 30 of these landing ships have been deployed on operational duties. In addition, North Korea has been carrying out joint naval exercises with the Soviet Union, in addition to joint exercises of its own navy and air force, in an effort to maximize its ability to conduct joint or coordinated operations.

The North Korean Air Force Headquarters has three air combat corps headquarters [hanggong chondan saryongbu] and one air division under it and is also in direct charge of the civil aviation bureau. Each air combat corps is comprised of diverse units such as bomber, transportation, and helicopter regiments and guided missile and radar monitor [tamjiki] regiments, as well as fighter regiments. Depending on its missions, each corps is capable of carrying out its own independent operations. North Korea's major air bases are Hwangju, Chunghwa, Kaechon, Toksan, and Orang. In addition, it has built over 70 bases, large and small, including emergency runways. Aircraft are widely deployed on more than 20 of these air bases. Particularly, the deployment of major tactical aircraft is concentrated in the front line area near the armistice line and in areas below the Pyongyang-Wonsan railway line, making it possible to mount an instantaneous attack on the whole of South Korea.

The North Korean Air Force has such tactical aircraft as MiG-15s, MiG-17s, and MiG-19s and Su-7s and Su-25s, about 750 MiG-21, MiG-23, MiG-29 intercepters, and more than 80 Il-28 light bombers. There are about 300 MiG-15s and MiG-17s—both are old models produced in 1950, accounting for 40 percent of the total number of tactical aircraft. North Korea has so many old models because of the air strategic belief that the low-supersonic aircraft, low-altitude fighters are essential in view of the peculiarities of the Korean terrain. As support aircraft, North Korea has 300 transports of various kinds, including the AN-2 and T-154 models, in addition to 280 helicopters including the H-500 model, the same model the ROK Armed Forces have, and MI-2s, MI-4s, MI-8s. The total number of aircraft owned by the North Korean Air Force exceeds 1,600 including 830 tactical aircraft.

The northern part of South Korea, including the Seoul area, comes under the range of attack of MiG-15s, MiG-17s, and MiG-19s of these tactical aircraft, and the latest MiG model and Su-7s and Su-25s are capable of attacking the whole area of South Korea in waves.

An examination of North Korean's efforts to beef up its Air Force shows that it has continued efforts for the introduction of new aircraft models, such as MiG-23s and Mi-29s and Su-25s, the semi-automation of warning and interception systems, the construction of underground hangers, and the deployment of diverse antiaircraft weapons. In addition, it has greatly improved the Air Force's ability to respond to contingencies by reorganizing the air divisions each of which had specific aircraft types and missions into three air corps. In the field of air defense industry, entering the 1980's, North Korea began to assemble helicopters and trainers and produce their imitation models on a limited scale. But on the basis of this accumulated technological know-how, it completed a fighter plane factory in Panghyon in 1986, and in the future it is expected to begin partial trial production of MiG-21s in this factory.

Beginning in the early 1960's, North Korea established search and production facilities for biochemical weapons and completed their mass production system. At present, it has a large stockpile of blistering, nerve, choking, blood, and tear gas bombs. It already cultured and produced communicable agents, that is, bacteriological weapons, such as weapons of cholera, pest, anthrax, and epidemic hemorrhagic fever viruses, and has completed testing on living bodies.

In the field of nuclear weapons development, North Korea introduced an experimental reactor from the Soviet Union in 1965, installed the No. 3 reactor with a capacity of 200,000 kilowatts in Yongbyon in 1985, and set up an independent Ministry of Nuclear Industry under the State Administration Council in 1987. Most probably, it is now adding spurs to nuclear development. North Korea did join the treaty banning nuclear proliferation in December 1985. But refusing to sign the nuclear safety provisions of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] as required by this treaty, it is threatening to renounce the treaty if IAEA tries to impose international inspection on it.

Students Attack U.S. Army Facility in Seoul

SK1608031990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—A group of radical students threw more than 50 firebombs at the back door of an office used by the U.S. military in downtown Seoul on Thursday morning, and one protester was taken into custody, police said. No damage was reported other than partial scorching of the steel gate.

Some 60 collegians, believed to be members of the National Student Alliance Chondaehyop, dashed out of a market alley and occupied the road behind the U.S. Eighth Army engineer's office at around 9:25 A.M., police said. They tossed firebombs, chanted anti-American slogans and dumped more than 100 leaflets on the ground. They all fled five minutes later, throwing firebombs at pursuing riot police. Ahn Chul-hyun, 21, a sophomore of Hallym College in Chunchon northeast of Seoul, is in police custody in connection with the attack.

Thousands of students clashed with police on Wednesday, the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule, as they tried to march to the truce village of Panmunjom to attend a North Korea-sponsored pan-national rally. The march was foiled by a police blockade.

President Boris Yeltsin Likely To Visit Korea

SK1608004190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, will likely visit Korea this year, a former minister for political affairs said yesterday.

Returning from his Moscow visit, Rep. Pak Chol-on said the scheduled visit by the Soviet's reformist leader was agreed in principle between working level officials of the two governments. "It (Yeltsin's Korea visit) has been promoted through full consultation with Kong No-myong, head of the Korean Consular Department in Moscow, and Kim Chong-hui political adviser to President No Tae-u," Pak said at a news conference. Detailed procedures will be determined after discreet deliberation by government officials, he said. The former cabinet minister said he stressed that the establishment of full diplomatic relationship should precede a further expansion of bilateral economic cooperation, during his Moscow visit on August 4-12.

No Tae-u's Liberation Day Anniversary Speech

SK1508020390

[Editorial Report] Seoul Television Service in Korean at 0100 GMT on 15 August carries a live relay of the ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of the national liberation held in Independence Hall in Mokchon, South Chungchong Province.

South Korean President No Tae-u and other government officials are present. President No begins to speak at 0120 GMT. He recalls the past dedication of patriots, points to Korea's recent economic development, talks of the pain and tragedy of national division. He stresses that making it possible for families to reunite is a national task, recalls his proposal for opening the border and allowing free travel. He says: "We are prepared to discuss unlimitedly all issues, including political and military issues, with North Korea. I firmly believe that the time has come when the responsible authorities in the North and the South should discuss all issues, including declaring the abandonment of all armed force, and also a nonaggression agreement, replacing the present armistice agreement with a peace agreement, and establishing reciprocal missions in Seoul and Pyongyang. We are willing to seriously discuss arms control in order to open the era of national reconciliation by eliminating the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and by ending the North-South confrontation. I hope that dialogue will proceed positively during the upcoming North-South high-level talks slated for next month and based on this, I expect the North-South summit talks to be held at an early date."

Further on Maneuvering Among Political Parties

General Elections Urged

SK1408065990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung called Tuesday on President No Tae-u to publicly renounce the idea of replacing South Korea's presidential system of government with a parliamentary cabinet system.

In a news conference marking the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, the leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy said the issue is a source of political unrest and called for immediate general elections.

"We are willing to negotiate with the ruling party on the legal procedures of parliamentary dissolution to form a new National Assembly through general elections," he said. His party's 70 lawmakers tendered their resignations last month to protest the unilateral passage by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) of 26 bills, including the national army act and Kwangju compensation bill.

"Corrective measures should be taken to the bills, which were railroaded unlawfully through parliament in the July session, in a manner that can persuade the people," Kim said. He also urged the government to implement local autonomy by June next year as agreed by the ruling and opposition parties last December. Making it clear that the Kwangju issue has not been settled as far as he is concerned, Kim said, "unveiling the truth, proper and just payment of indemnities, recovery of impaired reputation and holding commemorative exercises are the four basic principles we cannot give away in dealing with the issue."

The government is trying to lay to rest the 1980 tragedy, in which some 200 civilians were killed by soldiers, by compensating the injured and the families of the dead.

"We cannot help solving the problem in accordance with the four principles in the next democratic government if No's administration fails to do so," the opposition leader said. On economic matters, Kim called on the government to stop implementing a policy that leads to price hikes and abandon its idea of expanding next year's budget.

"The No administration should step down if it fails to bring prices under control and protect people from the threat of crime by the end of the year," he said. Kim criticized No's plan for cross-border travel this week as political propaganda.

"President No should justly make an apology for the befooling act and dismiss Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol," Kim said. He reiterated his idea of achieving peaceful co-existence between South and North Korea by concluding a quadri-partite peace agreement between the United States, China and South and North Korea, which were all involved in the 1950-1953 Korean war.

"A separate inter-Korean non-aggression declaration by South and North Korea should abandon using military power as a way to resolve disputes," the opposition leader said.

Parties Mark Liberation Day

SK1508024190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—The ruling party on Wednesday, the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule, called on North Korea to give up its plot to communize the South while the nation's two opposition parties called for liquidation of the vestiges of Japanese imperialism.

Following are statements issued by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and splinter Democratic Party (DP).

DLP statement: We feel rather sorry than joyful on liberation day because the pain of division comes stronger than the joy of liberation as year after year passes by. We call on the North to scrap the outdated idea of communizing the South and start to pave the road for national unification by accepting our proposal of free two-way inter-Korean travel, recovering national conscience.

PPD statement: It is a grief to the whole nation that the divided fatherland has not yet unified into one since Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialism 45 years ago. To overcome the painful division, we have to liquidate adamantly all the vestiges of Japanese imperialism which constitute obstacles to national unification. By doing so, we can achieve liberation in its true sense and build the cornerstone for national unification.

DP statement: The only way to complete liberation is to unify the divided nation into one. We declare to make our best efforts in national unification movement and warn the government not to politically use inter-Korean issues.

PPD Leader Offers Merger

SK1508060490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0528 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung took the unexpected step Wednesday of offering to let fellow opposition leader Yi Ki-taek head a unified party if it would get the faltering merger process back on track. The leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said, "I have no intention to represent the party if it is necessary in achieving the merger of opposition forces into one unified party. I am willing to uphold Democratic Party (DP) leader Yi Ki-taek for president of a new unified party. "However, my retreat to the sidelines, which is often asserted by some political quarters, is unthinkable," Kim said in an address marking the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

The PPD, the DP and the dissident conference for promoting a unified party declared late last month that they would join together as one party, but the merger process has been virtually deadlocked due to procedural differences. "If it is OK for Yi to represent the new party through negotiation between my party and his party, I will rush to him and uphold him as party president and serve for the development of the party. "The aim of achieving a unified opposition party is to win the next presidential and parliamentary elections to take over the government. My party is the strongest of the three opposition forces, without doubt, but we are ready to give up our vested interests to realize the merger of the opposition camp."

Meanwhile, Yi withheld an immediate response to Kim's overture, describing it as "hard to judge." Pressed to comment, Yi apparently tried to discount it by emphasizing that it was merely a "passing passage in an address."

Democratic Party Rejects Offer

SK1608045690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0448 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party [DP] has virtually rejected a surprise offer by Kim Tae-chung to hand the presidency of a new unified opposition party to DP President Yie Ki-taek "if necessary."

Rep. [Representative] Kim Chung-kil, the chief DP negotiator for the merger of the opposition parties, said Thursday his party never wanted to represent the new party.

"Therefore, it would be undesirable for Yi Ki-taek to become the president of a merged opposition party," he said. His remarks suggest the splinter party wants Kim and Yi to share the leadership. In an unexpected step Wednesday, Kim said he had no intention of leading the party if letting Yi take the helm would ensure the merger of the opposition.

"I am willing to uphold Democratic Party leader Yi Ki-taek for president of a new unified party," Kim said in an address marking the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from japan. Kim Chung-kil told reporters the merger should mean not only a simple merger of politicians and political groups but the tying together of the eastern and western regions of Korea, which do not go together well. Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] is rooted in the western region, called Honam, while Yi's Democratic Party is based in Yongnam, the eastern area.

The DP negotiator said his party finds the PPD leader's proposal "progressive" and "affirmative" and urged the PPD to present substantial ways to support it.

The PPD, the DP and the dissident conference for promoting a unified party declared late last month that they would join together as one party, but the merger process has been virtually deadlocked due to procedural differences. Negotiators of the two parties and dissident forces will hold a second working-level meeting Friday to discuss procedure.

Yi Ki-taek said the merger should be approached prudently and take the form of party to party unification. Yi's cautious attitude contrasts with Kim Tae-chung's position that the merger be made as soon as possible. While Yi wants all procedural matters, including sharing of party posts, to be settled before the merger, Kim wants to merge first and tackle procedural matters later.

Talks on Merger Proposed

SK1508005890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The Rev. Kim Kwan-sok, co-chairman of the preparatory committee for merging the opposition, yesterday proposed holding the three-way merger rally before Sept. 10 when the regular session of the National Assembly opens. Kim, representing out-of-parliament opposition forces, made the proposal to the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] and splinter Democratic Party [DP] at a press conference.

The three-way merger involving the PPD, DP and out-of-parliament opposition forces, if materialized at the proposed rally, could lead to adoption of a collective leadership system before a new party platform is chosen at the inaugural national convention, he said. As to the controversial district chapters of the proposed party, Kim suggested that a committee evenly represented by all three groups will be able to discuss the matter openly once the merger is agreed on. In the meantime, representatives from the three groups—Kim Won-ki, Kim Chong-kil and Chang Ul-pyong—will meet Friday to discuss the issues still standing in the way of an opposition merger.

* 29 June Declaration Revisited

* Poll Shows Discontent

902C0254A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 25 Jun 90 pp 4-5

[Report on a poll jointly taken by HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN and the Continental Research Institute: "'The Democratic System Will Take Root Within 10 Years,' Say 64 Percent"]

[Text] [Boxed item] Method of Survey This survey was conducted by the Continental Research Institute [CRI] with the cooperation of Sejung (stock company) on 1,500 men and women of 20 and over throughout the country except Chejudo for nine days from 29 May through 6 June 1990.

For the survey, the following sampling method was used: Sample numbers were assigned in proportion to the size of population in the 1985 "housing and population census" (material compiled by the Economic Planning Board) by region, sex, and age; and after sample localities were selected by three-stage stratified sample indexes, the number of the final sampling units, namely, individual objects of survey were randomly selected in such a way that their number may be in the neighborhood of 10 in each locality.

The range of maximum error within the confidence level of 95 percent was + or - 2.6 percent. As for the method of collecting materials, the CRI, in consultation with HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN, determined the questionnaire; and using this questionnaire, the interviewers visited interviewees separately to interview them in person.

In the actual survey, the questionnaire was distributed, collected, and screened under the supervision of CRI researchers in charge and poll researchers, and 20 percent of the questionnaires collected were selected randomly for verification.

Men and women accounted for 49.1 and 51.1 percent of the respondents respectively; and their age composition shows that 34.4 percent were in their 20's; 23.8 percent in their 30's; 17.9 percent in their 40's; 12.4 percent in their 50's; and 11.5 percent in their 60's. Their levels of education show that elementary school graduates accounted for 19.7 percent; junior high school graduates 16.9 percent; high school graduates 42.4 percent; college graduates 21 percent.

By occupation, housewives topped the list by accounting for 31.7 percent, followed by clerical and technical workers (14.4 percent), self-employed (10.5 percent), jobless (8.9 percent), laborers (8.7 percent), shopkeepers and those in service business (8.5 percent), those engaged in farming and lumbering (79 percent), students (6.1 percent) managers and professionals (3.3 percent).[end boxed item]

POLITICS

Appraisal of Democratization Process, 6 June Declaration

—In the evaluation of the current degree of democracy in our society, respondents gave 49.9 points on the basis of 100 points. Of the respondents, 39 percent gave 60 points and over and 19.8 percent gave 70 points and over whereas 35.3 percent gave less than 40 points and 21 percent gave less than 30 points. Thus the points of evaluation were symmetrically distributed on both sides of the 50 mark.

—Comparing the degree of democratization with the period preceding the 29 June presidential declaration, 68.7 percent of the respondents said they think the country has become democratic to a certain extent, whereas 22.9 and 7.5 percent think, respectively, that "there has been nearly no democratization" and "democracy has rather retrogressed."

More specifically, 40.1 percent said "the country has become somewhat democratic"; 22.2 percent said "the country has become democratic on the whole"; 6.4 percent said "the country has become democratic a great deal." Thus slightly less than 30 percent of the respondents gave answers indicating their satisfaction.

—In the evaluation of the key pledges of the Sixth Republic, the pledge to guarantee freedom of speech and the press received the most positive evaluation (with 35.3 giving a positive assessment whereas 27.5 percent made a negative assessment), followed in descending order by the pledge to realize a great era of the ordinary man (29.8 percent vs 16.2 percent); the pledge to guarantee three major rights of the workers (28.3 percent vs 31.1 percent); and the pledge to eliminate regionalism (25.7 percent vs 38.5 percent). The evaluations of these pledges were divided almost equally. On the other hand, the pledge to firmly establish a wholesome parliamentary system take hold received the lowest mark (15.7 percent vs 38.1 percent).

—As the groups and political parties which have strived for democratization, respondents mentioned college students, the press, trade unions, the president, intellectuals, dissident forces, the Democratic Party, and the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] in that order. They gave a negative appraisal to the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party], the National Assembly (its members), the government (bureaucrats), and the courts (judges) in that order. In the appraisal of the DLP and the National Assembly in particular, more respondents gave a negative appraisal than those who gave a favorable appraisal.

—In the assessment of the current situation, 48.3 percent of the respondents said this is a time when democracy is taking root; 17.2 percent said a time of labor for democracy; 31.1 percent said a time of uncertainty when it is difficult to foresee the future; and 2.8 percent said a time when democracy is retrogressing. In other words, two-thirds judged that this is a period of transition to democracy; and particularly about half (48.3 percent) said that to a certain extent democratization has entered the stage of stabilization.

—As the foremost factors obstructing democracy, 35.2 percent gave the inadequate quality of politicians, followed in descending order of importance by animosity among people (27.2 percent), social unrest caused by demonstrations (23 percent), and regionalism (10.2 percent).

As ways of thinking obstructive to democratization, an almost same number of respondents mentioned the following: factionalism (20.5 percent), authoritarianism (20.5 percent), egoism (20.1 percent), the tendency to distrust others (18.9 percent), and the thought that money is everything (16.9 percent). Almost a same number of respondents also mentioned the following values as the first requirements for the realization of democracy: equality (22 percent), order (21.3 percent), human rights (19.9 percent), responsibility (18.6 percent). In addition, they also mentioned justice (9.1 percent) and freedom (8.8 percent).

—Concerning the future of democracy, optimism prevailed over pessimism, with more than half expressing an optimistic view (5.5 percent said things will go well, and 48.1 percent said things will go smoothly on the whole), and 13 percent expressed a pessimistic view. Optimism was most conspicuous among college students, and the percentage was relatively high among highly educated people and the age bracket of 60 and over. On the contrary, people of the Cholla area and the age group of 40 were somewhat more pessimistic.

—As to the time required for democracy to take hold, 29.2 percent of the respondents estimated "it will take at least five years," and 64 percent said "it will take less than 10 years." On the other hand, 23.2 percent said it will take "more than 10 years." The optimistic prospect (in five years or less) was dominant among older people, whereas many in the age bracket of 30 and under and people of the Cholla area said it will take more than 20 years for democracy to take hold.

Political Reality

—The evaluation of political reality turned out to be very negative. Whereas a 70 percent majority expressed "dissatisfaction" with the general political situation, only 4.5 percent said it is "satisfactory," the remaining 25.4 percent saying it is just so-so.

—Whereas 11.1 percent said politics is reflecting the will of the people, by far more people, or 62.9 percent, expressed the opposite view. In particular, 80.9 percent said our political world is not stable.

This kind of negative evaluation was evident in this response: 78.0 percent of the total respondents said no political party or political group represents their views; 51 percent said they have no political party or political group to support; and 50.7 percent said they have no political leader to support.

—As factors obstructing political stability, 30.8 percent mentioned excessive rivalry among political groupings, and 21.4 percent gave the inadequate leadership ability of political leaders. The percentage of those

(52.2 percent) who said political groupings and politicians are responsible for the obstruction of political stability was almost equal to that of the respondents (47.1 percent) who cited obstructive social factors such as labor disputes and student unrest, the gap between rich and poor, the generational gap, and regionalism.

—As political tasks requiring an urgent solution, they mentioned the elimination of regionalism (23.5 percent), the realization of parliamentary democracy (20.9 percent), a merger of opposition parties (20.7 percent), the implementation of local autonomy (16.8 percent), the restoration of the ruling party's political capability (13.7 percent). In other words, almost half (47.7 percent) of the respondents mentioned the permanent establishment of democratic institutions, such as parliamentary democracy and local autonomy, as urgent tasks.

—As to the future political prospects, 27.1 percent expressed pessimistic views, whereas 30 percent expressed an optimistic view and 42.7 percent said they are neither optimistic nor pessimistic. Thus the optimists slightly outnumbered the pessimists. By far more people expressed negative views concerning the future of politics compared with the optimistic view expressed on the prospect of social democratization mentioned above.

—About the possibility of political changes in two to three years, respondents mentioned these possibilities in ascending order: a military coup (14.9 percent said it is possible against 67.1 percent who saw no such possibility), a mass revolution (26.7 percent vs 55.6 percent), an early general election (32.7 percent vs 49.5 percent), and transfer of power by election (45.4 percent vs 40.1 percent). Except for the possibility of a government changeover by election, more people saw no possibility of political change than those who saw such possibility.

Among minority groups, less educated people, and students, a relatively large percent held the view that a military coup, a mass revolution, or an early government changeover is highly possible. They are of the opinion that chances are high that there will be a considerable political change in our country two to three years from now.

—As groups whose political influence has increased compared with the days of the Fifth Republic, respondents mentioned the ruling party (34.9 percent) and the opposition parties (10 percent) in that order. As groups whose influence has diminished, they mentioned the opposition parties (28 percent), the military (23 percent), the ruling party (11.2 percent), the dissident forces (7.5 percent), and the middle class (6.9 percent) in that order.

—Only 21.9 percent said they have the political parties or groups which best represent their views. In other words, about 80 percent said no political party or group represents their views.

About half (51 percent) said they have no political party or group to support, the percentage being relatively high among women of 60 and over and less educated people.

ECONOMY

In the evaluation of government policies designed to realize economic justice, the largest percentage (45.2 percent) acknowledged that the government is striving to attain a regional balance in economic development, followed by the approval of the policy for nurturing and supporting small and medium-scale enterprises (35.3 percent). Roughly equal percentages made a positive evaluation of these other policies: stepping up support for the needy (29.8 percent), preventing the concentration of economic power in the hands of big corporations (30 percent), increasing the income of the workers (29.3 percent), and solving the problems of farming and fishing villages (27.7 percent).

However, as to the ratio of affirmative to negative appraisals, more respondents made a negative than a positive appraisal in other cases except for the evaluation of the efforts to attain a regional balance in economic development (45.2 percent acknowledged such efforts whereas 23.1 percent expressed a contrary view). Particularly in the evaluation of the efforts to solve the problems of farming and fishing communities, the percentage of the negative answers was highest, (with 27.7 percent acknowledging such efforts against 47.1 percent who expressed a contrary view).

—As the foremost reason for the current economic difficulty, the tendency toward unproductive speculation accounted for the highest percentage (34.8 percent), followed by inadequate economic policy (24.1 percent), excessive pursuit of profit in all strata (22.1 percent), inadequate investment and insufficient efforts for technological development (16.6 percent). As the persons who should assume the responsibility for the economic difficulties, respondents mentioned politicians (31.8 percent), government bureaucrats (29.3 percent), and big corporations (27.5 percent) in that order. Thus the majority blamed the political instability caused by politicians, the mistaken policies of the government, and the tendency for speculation among big corporations for the current economic difficulties.

—In the evaluation of the diligence of various economic groups, a positive appraisal was made of production workers (64.4 percent), small and medium-scale entrepreneurs (52.7 percent), and clerical workers (52 percent) in that order. On the other hand, the largest percentage (46.3 percent) of the respondents gave a negative appraisal to big entrepreneurs; and economic bureaucrats also received a negative appraisal from a fairly large percentage (34.8 percent).

In addition, as people who work harder but receive less benefits, the majority mentioned farmers and fishermen (45.9 percent) and production workers (36.4 percent).

—On the fairness in promotion opportunities, the majority (80.1 percent) said there is no such fairness. The percentage of those who gave negative answers was high among people in their 30's (84.6 percent), among farmers, lumbermen, and fishermen (85.7 percent), among skilled production workers (84.6 percent), and among people in the Cholla area (89.6 percent).

—Among factors responsible for economic success, the parents' economic power accounted for the largest percentage (30.9 percent), followed by speculation or unearned income (28.3 percent), their own efforts (25.7 percent), and local or school connections or the help of associates (10.9 percent). Approximately three-fourths of the respondents attributed economic success to factors other than their own efforts.

On the other hand, 59.8 percent blamed the society rather than mistakes on the part of individuals for poverty.

—As for the responsibility for the consumption of imported goods, a greater percentage blamed consumer mentality (54.9 percent) rather than importers (27.6 percent), sales agents (9.7 percent), and domestic copiers of foreign brands (5.6 percent). This reflects the fact that the behavior of the consumers is the problem.

—As reasons for the diminished labor disputes in the past two to three years, the solution of disputes through labor-management negotiations accounted for 32.9 percent of the answers, the exercise of strong government power for 23.9 percent, the past negotiations which resulted in the settlement of many disputes for 23 percent, and self-restraint on the part of workers (3.3 percent). Thus many expressed positive views with regard to the efforts on the part of labor and management to negotiate and the results such efforts have produced thus far.

—As factors which should be taken into consideration in determining wages, the percentages of respondents who listed the rate of price increase (48 percent) and the cost of living (26.3 percent) were greater than those who mentioned productivity (14.9 percent), the ability to pay (5.5 percent), and comparable wages in similar fields (4.1 percent). This is a reflection of the recent price increases and the corresponding increase in the cost of living.

—As to the question of which of the two our economy should choose, income redistribution or growth as its direction, those in favor of giving priority to growth accounted for 64.9 percent of the respondents, or nearly double the number in favor of income redistribution (34.1 percent). Among those in favor of giving priority to growth, people in the age bracket of 60 and over, housewives, and farmers, lumbermen, and fishermen accounted for a relatively higher percentage. On the other hand, among those in favor of income redistribution, people with higher educational levels, managers, professionals, and college students accounted for a relatively higher percentage.

SOCIETY

—To the question what a just society looks like, a society where human dignity is guaranteed accounted for the largest percentage of the answers (34.8 percent), followed in descending order by a society where people trust and love each other (34.5 percent), a society where people receive a reward corresponding to their work (25.9 percent), a society which is fair in material terms (4.7 percent. Compared with those who attached importance to material aspects (3.6 percent), a large percentage (69.3 percent) regarded trust and dignity as a condition for a just society.

—As conditions for a happy life, health (56.2 percent) and happy family life (55.1 percent) topped the list, followed by economic affluence (37.7 percent) and equal treatment (20.8 percent).

Health and happy family life were emphasized more among the higher age bracket; fair treatment among people in the lower age bracket and people with higher educational levels; and economic affluence among people in their 20's.

—As causes of the increased incidence of crime, the prevalent tide of decadence accounted for a higher percentage (44.1 percent) than economic difficulty (17.7 percent) and home training that has gone wrong (12.1 percent). On the other hand, 24.6 percent [as published] of the respondents blamed light punishment (13.5 percent) and the lax public peace and order (12.5 percent).

Among those who blamed the tide of decadence, the younger the respondents the higher the percentage—(53 percent of those in their 20's and 47.3 percent of those in their 30's); and the higher the educational level the higher the percentage—(25.4 percent of elementary school graduates or people with a lower educational background, 40.9 percent of junior high school graduates, 48.6 percent of senior high school graduates, 54.9 percent of college students and people with a higher educational background). On the contrary, among those who blamed light punishment, the older the higher the percentage—(9.5 percent of people in their 20's, 11.8 percent of those in their 30's, 16.7 percent in their 50's, and 19.9 percent of those in the age bracket of 60 and over); and the lower the educational level the higher the percentage—(20 percent of elementary school graduates or people with a lower level of education, 11.6 percent of high school graduates, and 8.3 percent of college enrollees and people with a higher educational background).

* Opinion Survey Reviewed

902C0254B Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 26 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Post-29 June Changes as Reflected in the Survey Conducted by HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN and the Continental Research Institute"]

[Text]

(I)

How much have we changed since the 29 June declaration? Where do we stand now as a result?

These are the questions to which every one of our people is anxious to find answers. The opinion survey conducted by this newspaper and the Continental Research Institute on the occasion of the third anniversary of the 29 June declaration draws attention because it shows in its own way how the majority of people think about the aforementioned questions. The 29 June declaration issued three years ago pledged before the nation to put an end to the authoritarian rule based on military culture which the party in power had maintained until then and carry out democratic reforms in all aspects of social life.

Regarding the results of the implementation of this pledge, the survey shows that while giving the positive appraisal that democratization has progressed to a certain extent, a large 70 percent majority gave the negative answer that they are "dissatisfied" with the political realities on the whole.

It is noteworthy in this appraisal of politics that 35.2 percent mentioned the inadequate quality of politicians as a factor obstructive to democratization.

This is noteworthy because the inadequate quality of politicians mentioned as the greatest factor obstructive to democratization—together with the insufficient leadership ability of political leaders which is mentioned as the second greatest factor responsible for political unrest after "the excessive rivalry among political groupings," as well as the answers that "there is no political party or group to support" (51 percent) and that "there are no political leaders to support" (50.7 percent)—highlights our people's deep-rooted distrust of political parties, politicians, and political leaders.

This indicates that the majority of people are still dissatisfied with and have a negative view of the phenomenon of the ruling party in the minority vs the opposition in the majority in the Nation Assembly—the phenomenon which appeared in the process of political democratization following the 29 June declaration—and of the subsequent political order created by the emergence of the giant ruling party through a merger of two opposition parties. In addition, 47.1 percent of the respondents gave social unrest caused by labor disputes and student disturbances, the gap between rich and poor, the conflicting views between different generations, and regionalism as factors obstructive to political stability. This percentage is very close to the 50 percent who expressed distrust in politics, and this fact substantiates the perception of the general public that the settlement of labor disputes and stability on the campus are an important factor in achieving political stability.

As urgent political tasks, respondents mentioned the elimination of regionalism (23.5 percent), the realization of parliamentary democracy (20.9 percent), the integration of the opposition forces (20.7 percent), the adoption of local autonomy (16.8 percent), the recovery of the ruling party's ability to rule (13.7 percent). In this connection, it is ironic that 78 percent of the respondents said no political party or group represents their views, and 62.9 percent said that politics does not reflect the will of the people.

However, on the future of democratization, optimistic views strongly prevailed over pessimistic views (53.6 percent against 13 percent), and this indicates that the public keeps its hopes alive on the future of our country.

As methods for settling social problems, respondents preferred stability to reform, the adjustment of diverse views to strong leadership, and this, we would say, a reflection of the degree of political maturity of our people.

(II)

One of the survey results which deserves special mention is that people made a positive evaluation of the process of political democratization in the past three years, although they were more dissatisfied than satisfied with it. On the other hand, they think that the democratization process has made no contribution to or rather has had a negative impact on economic development and social stability.

One of the reasons that cannot be overlooked why the contribution made by 29 June declaration was below expectations is that while democratization was correspondingly expanding the freedom of entrepreneurial activity by reducing interference in and control over the economy, business has been unable to cope with the intensifying labor disputes and surging demand for higher wages resulting from the reinstatement of the three major rights of the workers which had been restrained under the former authoritarian rule, and also to cope with the adverse public sentiment toward business, entailing a contraction of business activity.

Further, 70.8 percent answered that the 29 June declaration "did not contribute" to social stability, and we need to deeply reflect on the significance of this answer.

In our opinion, with the democratization process spurred by the 29 June declaration, every stratum, each member of the society, and each individual came out at the same time claiming their rights and shares and took action to gain them, causing social confusion and frictions and having a negative rather than a positive impact on the economy in the end.

In this connection, we cannot help pointing out that a society in which all strata with conflicting interests and all component members demand the 100-percent fulfillment of their shares and rights unilaterally and simultaneously is just like a ship which is overcrowded way beyond its capacity and sinks before reaching its destination. We must keep it in our minds that in that event, not only the economy would suffer a setback but also the foundation of political democratization would be affected.

Looking back upon the three years since the 29 June declaration, we have to think over the question of which alternatives we should choose in order to seek and realize democratization and economic development simultaneously, and should make a judicious decision in this regard.

On the other hand, the answers to the questions concerning the current economic difficulties should be regarded as the demand that big corporations, the government, and politicians make a 180-degree turn in their way of thinking and in their attitude.

This is evident from the fact that the greatest percentage of the respondents attributed the economic difficulties to the tendency toward unproductive speculation, and for this they pinned the responsibility on the politicians who failed to achieve political stabilization, the government authorities who formulated wrong policies, and the owners of big enterprises who chose to seek profits through financial maneuvering, in that order.

On the direction of our economy, the number of those in favor of growth was twice as many as those in favor of income redistribution. Yet, on policy issues, the distribution-oriented view that the first priority should be given to support for the economic underclass was prevalent over the view in favor of increasing the overall income. This, we would say, is a reflection of the ongoing conflict between growth and distribution and of the public desire for attaining both growth and distribution in developing countries.

In conclusion, the results of the latest opinion survey have provided in their own way the useful lessons and the direction as to how the political leaders, the policy-making authorities, the businessmen, and the workers should behave in order to make the 29 June declaration a perestroyka contributing to democratic development of politics, the economy, and society.

From this point of view, we are of the opinion that this is the time for the administration, the National Assembly, labor and management, and other social groups to do their best in their respective positions for the accelerated completion of the goals outlined in the 29 June declaration.

Burma

Resistance Group Urges Army To Oppose Junta

BK1008022590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] An overseas Burmese resistance group yesterday condemned the Rangoon junta for the Wednesday killing of students and monks in Mandalay. "The regime bears responsibility along with the officers commanding the triggermen at the scene for the carnage in Mandalay," said a statement by the U.S.-based Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma (CRDB).

Western diplomats in Rangoon quoted witnesses as saying that Burmese security forces opened fire on Wednesday on peaceful marchers led by Buddhist monks in downtown Mandalay, killing at least two monks and two students, and injuring one student. The march was being held to commemorate the August 1988 uprising against the Burmese military regime, in which thousands of prodemocracy demonstrators were killed by troops.

The report however was flatly rejected by Burmese military authorities in Rangoon as "merely a rumour spread by unscrupulous elements." Rangoon admitted that small student marches had been held for three consecutive days early this week in Mandalay but denied that any protesters were killed by Burmese forces.

The committee called on Burmese Army officers to "immediately swear allegiance to the elected national assembly," and to release political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin u, whose political party, the National League for Democracy [NLD], won a landslide victory in general elections in May. The NLD so far has been prevented from creating a civilian government by the military-controlled ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The CRDB urged the Burmese Army to "refrain from obeying any junta-orchestrated directive which would result in violence against the people," in case of unrest brought about by the refusal of junta leader Gen Saw Maung to hand over the executive power to elected representatives.

Exiled Buddhist Monks Protest in Thailand

BK1108063790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] About 50 Buddhist monks demonstrated yesterday in front of the Burmese Embassy to protest Burmese troops' killing of several students and monks during a peaceful march in Mandalay on Wednesday.

The saffroned-robed monks representing the exiled All Burma Young Monks Union and Overseas Mon Young Monks Union pleaded for "an awakening of the world's conscience to the alarming escalation of violence and atrocity" in Burma by Burmese troops. The monks also denounced the continued refusal of the Burmese junta to transfer power to opposition representatives elected during the May general elections.

At least two students and two monks were reportedly shot to death during the march in Mandalay held to commemorate those killed on August 8, 1988 when the Burmese military brutally crushed pro-democracy uprisings. The Burmese junta in Rangoon, however, rejected the report as "merely a rumour spread by unscrupulous elements."

In a statement distributed during the protest yesterday, the monks also urged the international community to press for a peaceful transfer of executive authority from the military regime to elected representatives.

The monks, who laid wreaths at the embassy's wall to commemorate those killed on Wednesday, said their protest was "an open expression of our profound sorrow for our Burmese brothers and sisters who have died in the violent repression that grips our country." They also urged the Venerable Sangha Supreme Council in Rangoon "to object forcefully" on behalf of all monks in Burma to the "murderous deeds of the military junta."

Lao Delegation Departs Following Border Talks

BK0908150390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] The delegation headed by Mr. Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which visited Myanmar [Burma] between 5 and 9 August at the invitation of the Union of Myanmar Government, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon airport by U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department; Mr. Vansi Sa-ne, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Lao Embassy in Yangon; and responsible officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Lao Embassy.

During their stay in Myanmar, the Lao deputy minister and his delegation members held preliminary talks on the demarcation of the bilateral border with the Myanmar side, headed by U Ohn Gyaw. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere with both sides showing an accommodating spirit to achieve mutually beneficial results. The two sides reached an agreement to continue with the necessary survey work and other programs relating to the demarcation of the border.

Thai Delegation Arrives for Border Talks

BK1308173290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] A Thai delegation headed by Lieutenant General San Siphen, commander of the No. 1 Army Region of the Royal Thai Army, arrived at Yangon [Rangoon] airport by a special plane this morning to attend the fourth meeting of the Myanmar [Burma]-Thai Border Committee to be held in Moulmein.

Lieutenant General San Siphen and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of Yangon Military Command; Major General Maung Aye, commander of the Eastern Military Command; and the Myanmar members of the joint border committee.

After a brief stopover at Yangon airport, the Thai delegation proceeded to Moulmein by a special Defense Services plane later this morning. The Thai delegation will have talks at the Southeast Military Command headquarters with a Myanmar side headed by Major General Maung Aye.

NLD Candidate Appeals Result in Kyaikmaraw

BK1208074390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] People's Assembly candidate [of the National League for Democracy] U Tin Ngwe has submitted an appeal in accordance with Articles 64-A and 64-B of the People's Assembly Election Law requesting that he be declared the election winner from Kyaikmaraw Township Constituency-2 and to annul the election of Nai Khin Maung [candidate of Mon National Democratic Front] as the People's Assembly representative, and to include the other candidates—U Kya Swe; U Kyarr, alias Bo Kyarr Gyi; U Zaw Win; and U Win Myint San—the persons against whom the complaint is filed in accordance with People's Assembly Bylaw No. 95. The Election Tribunal No. 1 has published the duplicate copy of that complaint in the National Gazette and has also announced that the case will be heard on the first floor of Court Building No. 1, Pansodan Road, Yangon [Rangoon].

Complaint Filed Against Candidate From Homalin

BK1208073390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Aug 90

["Text" of Announcement No. 26/90 issued by the Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] on 11 August 1990—the sixth day of the wanning moon of Wagaung, Myanmar era 1352]

[Text] Subject—Investigating Elections Complaint

1. Election Tribunal No. 1 which was formed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar in accordance with Article 65-A of the 1989 People's Assembly Elections Law, shall investigate the complaint filed by the following person.

Name of person who filed: U Maung Thwin. [candidate for Shan Nationalities League for Democracy]
Persons against whom the complaint is filed: Dr. Hla Thein [elected independent candidate] and three others.
Name of constituency: Homalin Constituency-2, Sagaing Division.

By the authority vested in me
Signed: Maung Ko, secretary, the Government of the Union of Myanmar

Groups Want Membership in Anti-Junta Alliance

BK1608024790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by Somchit Rungchamratratsami]

[Text] Mae Sot—Four Burmese ethnic resistance groups and a splinter faction of the defunct Communist Party of Burma have applied to become members of a large alliance fighting the Burmese rulers in Rangoon.

The Shan State National Liberation Organization (SSNLO), the Kayah Newland Liberation Council (KNLC), the Karenni People's Liberation Organization (KPLO), the Democratic Patriotic Army (DPA), and a splinter group of the Communist Party of Burma (CPB) informed the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB] on June 20 of their wish, according to DAB spokesman Aye Saung.

Aye Saung said the five groups also sent their representatives to a DAB meeting.

The DAB, a border resistance coalition comprising 23 ethnic, Burman and student parties, has not yet decided on the question of admitting the groups and is currently holding a meeting to discuss the matter, he said.

A DAB source identified the leaders of the SSNLO, the KNLC, the DPA, the KPLO and the CPB splinter as Phakalei, Shwe Aye, Nya Maung Mae, "Peter," and Pamoe, respectively. The SSNLO is an ethnic resistance group with about 4-500 followers in Shan state, the KNLC is a Padaung tribe organization and the DPA is an underground Burmese students' group inside Burma.

Asked if the DAB, a staunch anticommunist organization, would accept the membership of the former CPB faction, an executive committee member of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front said he would not object to the splinter group's participation as long as it pursued the DAB's objectives of toppling the military regime in Rangoon and restoring democracy to Burma.

He said any party, even a communist party, could join the DAB just as in a truly democratic country, any political party could contest in elections and it would be up to the people to choose whomsoever they want.

Other DAB members were not available for comment.

Commenting on the situation inside Burma, the student said he had been informed by Burmese merchants who arrived recently in Mae Sot that Burmese military authorities on Aug 10 had ordered the closure of all schools in Moulmein, in southern Burma.

Khun Sa Interviewed on Political Situation

BK0808132590 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 30 Jul-5 Aug 90 pp 31-37

[Interview given by Khun Sa, leader of the Tai Revolutionary Council and commander of the Muang Tai Army, to KHAO PHISET correspondent Aphichat Sutthiwong, in Burmese territory on 17 July]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Aphichat] Last year there was a U.S. report that the Rangoon government contacted the people in the Kokang region and the Wa people to conclude a secret agreement. The report did not mention your name but said that the agreement took place in Shan State. Did you join the agreement?
[Khun Sa] The action of the Wa and the people in Kokang was the result of the situation in the Burmese Communist Party [BCP]. They opposed their masters so it was necessary for them to side with the Rangoon government. There was no such problem in my group so there was no need for contact with the Rangoon government.

[Aphichat] You are denying that there was any agreement between you and the Rangoon government.
[Khun Sa] That is correct.

[Aphichat] Burmese soldiers reportedly did not attack you because there was some kind of agreement. Is this true?
[Khun Sa] That is not true; clashes between my force and the Burmese force occurred regularly.

[Aphichat] Recently, you reportedly sent Khunsai to Manerplaw camp. What was the purpose of that?
[Khun Sa] He did not go there to meet with the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB] but to see Bo Mya and Brang Seng (a Kachin leader) on private matters. Because of the change in the situation in Rangoon caused by Aung San Suu Kyi's victory, we consulted the two people; it had nothing to do with the DAB.

[Aphichat] What was the outcome of the meeting?
[Khun Sa] They were not allowed to meet.

[Aphichat] Why?
[Khun Sa] They alleged that I was on the Rangoon side.

[Aphichat] Is the allegation false?
[Khun Sa] It is up to you to think for yourself and do your investigation. I do not know what to say.

[Aphichat] If the National League for Democracy [NLD] is handed over the administrative power and it wants minority groups to rejoin the Union of Burma, will Shan State join, or will it insist on independence?
[Khun Sa] As a politician, one must do everything that will benefit his country. In any event, I think Thailand will be the party that suffers if I join Burma.

[Aphichat] Can you give a firm answer about whether or not you will join?
[Khun Sa] We joined the Panglong treaty, which the Burmese cheated on. Therefore, a new treaty is in order.

[Aphichat] This means that you are ready to negotiate if Rangoon proposes a meeting.
[Khun Sa] I am ready.

[Aphichat] Can you analyze the political situation in Burma beginning from the signing of the Panglong treaty in 1947 to the change in Rangoon in 1988, and what might be the trends in the future?
[Khun Sa] As far as the current situation is concerned, I follow it constantly. Regarding the future, I want to say that our children are in the tiger's den and we must rescue them. We must cut a path to reach the den but I cannot tell you how. That is the way the situation is. If we talk we will not be able to rescue our children and we will be bitten ourselves. (laughter)

[Aphichat] If Burma were to comprise of three powerful groups—the Karen-led DAB, the Rangoon group, and your group—and if there were to be negotiations, will you negotiate directly with Rangoon or join with the DAB first before negotiating with Rangoon.
[Khun Sa] We have the Panglong treaty, so we must adhere to it. It is not necessary to join any group or negotiate a new treaty. Now that you asked this question, allow me to elaborate. In the Union of Burma, the Rangoon government is socialist. Also, there are the antisocialist groups—the red flag Communist Party led by Thakin Than Tun and supported by China, and the white flag Communist Party led by Thakin Soe and supported by the Soviet Union. These two parties could not defeat Rangoon despite superpower support. Moreover, these two Communist Parties brought us problems. The people in Kokang region and the Wa were used by these parties as their tools and they have remained hostile to us even after their parties were dissolved.

Now the Burmese Government wants to add Kokang and Wa as new states as opposed to previously seven states. This amounts to taking away our territory. I began the drive for the independence of our state next to the Thai border in 1969, bringing progress to the area. Why? It is because people have fled from communism and socialism to the area. I have played a part in bringing progress, but no one has given assistance to our movement to date. It is not necessary for the Thai Government to give us assistance. If it will only allow us freedom of movement we could win. Both of us respect the king's benevolence. We are not Thailand's enemy. What I can do now has been restricted. The [U.S.] Drug Enforcement Agency has made me immobile. Not only is the Thai Government helping us, it is also giving us trouble.

We had a battle with the Wa late last month. Most people believe that the BCP has been dissolved but I think it has not. It has gone into China. If the BCP resumes activities, the Wa and the Kokang people will rejoin it. If this happens, Thailand, which is a kingdom and ruled democratically, will suffer. Would it not?

Which side will Thailand support if we and the Wa are engaged in a battle? Thailand could have remained impartial. But Thailand has chosen to help the Wa, the communists, by giving our base on Doi Lang to them. Is this good? I don't think current senior Thai leaders are helping the Thai people. They are helping ASEAN. What they are doing benefits China and the United States. They are U.S. underlings and oppress the Thai people. Why should these type of leaders be allowed to continue? By handing our base to the Wa, they show that they are not adults but are children. I will never regret this criticism.

[Aphichat] What is the progress of your efforts to unite Shan State, particularly with the Shan State People's Party [SSPP] under Khun Chailek, the Kokang group, and the Wa?
[Khun Sa] I have tried everything possible to unite with them. For example, although the Wa and my group have clashed, I do not regard them as enemies. We are in a defensive posture and have not acted aggressively. I feel that the current Wa leader will not live for ever and that a new Wa leader might have a new policy.

[Aphichat] What is the progress of unity with the SSPP?
[Khun Sa] Good. We have helped each other. Its men have joined us. We have rescued all the SSPP men who were captured by the Wa at Nong Tao village.

[Aphichat] The SSPP is a member of the DAB. It will have to leave the DAB to join you.
[Khun Sa] Don't you know that the SSPP was discarded by the DAB because it joined us?

[Aphichat] I sense that General Bo Mya does not like you. Did you ever have an argument with him?
[Khun Sa] I have no quarrel with Bo Mya. We met on several occasions. I treated him to a meal every time. He visited me a few years ago and I held a reception for him.

[Aphichat] Khunsai once said it was not necessary to demand independence as long as there was an acceptable Burmese proposal. What proposal is acceptable to you?
[Khun Sa] It is not that we must get exactly what we want, nothing can be accomplished that way. There must be flexibility, depending on national interest. The past lesson of unfairness must not be repeated. The Burmese attacked us and withdrew on many occasions, leading not only to the problem of our people not having a place to live but also not having a place to earn a livelihood. As a result, we must liberate our territory.

[Aphichat] You have been waging a struggle for independence of Shan State for 20 years, how much longer will you continue?
[Khun Sa] If my generation does succeed, the younger generation will continue the struggle. My action so far has made weak people strong and poor people less poor. Our action is correct. If we try, others will help. We can not achieve as much if we do not have assistance from others. Angels can help us more than people can help, but the real situation will help us most of all. We have fought for 20 years. It would be a pity if we could not wait another two months.

[Aphichat] How do you view General Chatchai Chunhawan government's policy of turning the battle zone into a trade zone?
[Khun Sa] Very good, I like the way it sounds but have not seen any good results.

[Aphichat] Have you heard about the attempt of Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Gen. Phat Akkhanibut to forge negotiations between the DAB and the government of Gen. Saw Maung? What is your view of the Thai Armed Forces' role in this matter?
[Khun Sa] What I see is that the Thai military officials and politicians have succeeded in plundering a lot of Burmese timber while the Burmese have received only seasoning powder and sandals in return. (laughter)

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

Deputy Minister Sees No Regional Military Clash

BK1608095890 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0715 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Thursday that he did not foresee long-standing disputes between Malaysia and neighbouring countries deteriorating into military confrontation similar to the Iraq-Kuwait situation. Malaysia's differences with neighbouring countries, mainly territorial disputes, were not serious enough to result in conflict, he added. "We may have problems but they are not serious enough to develop into war-like confrontation," he told reporters after opening a three-day seminar on foreign policy issues here. "I don't believe our problems with our neighbours can lead to war or anything close to Iraq and Kuwait," he said.

Dr. Abdullah Fadzil said ASEAN's political background was one of the resolving problems through negotiations and dialogue. Also, preparations for war is not a priority of ASEAN nations who had minimum defense budgets. Malaysia's territorial disputes involve the East Malaysian state of Sabah which is claimed by the Philippines, Pulau Batu Putih claimed by Singapore, Limbang by Brunei and several of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea claimed by China, Vietnam and others.

Referring to the Spratly Islands dispute, Dr. Abdullah Fadzil said that despite the military might of China and Vietnam, all the countries involved had shown a willingness to settle the problem through political dialogue. "As for Malaysia, we do not at any time ever envisage that we should act tough and use military means to solve our problems with our neighbours," he added. This mood for dialogue, he said, was imperative upon all involved countries because "we cannot expect people to act decent to us if we ourselves do not act decent to others." "Malaysia is well known for practising what we preach, so I feel other countries will think many times before they want to attack us or disturb us by creating unnecessary situations," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Dr. Abdullah Fadzil warned that these unresolved issue had the potential to give rise to negative effects regarding the stability of the region. Although the issues would not seriously affect Malaysia's bilateral relations, they would nonetheless remain a hindrance to improved ties with neighbouring countries, he said. The three-day seminar is funded by the Asia Foundation.

Saudi Envoy Meets Counterpart, Asks for Help

BK1608100690 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Saudi Arabia has asked Malaysia to be part of an Islamic military group to help protect the holy Islamic shrines and cities of Mecca and Medinah in the event of an Iraqi attack, Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Thursday. The request by Saudi ruler al-Malik Fahd was conveyed by his envoy, Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who arrived here Wednesday.

He was granted an audience with the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong (the Malaysian King) Sultan Azlan Shah and later met Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Thursday to convey the request. Dr. Abdullah Fadzil said Malaysia was approached as a brother Islamic nation. The Malaysian troops would not be part of the Pan-Arab military force to defend Saudi Arabia against Iraq.

The Saudi envoy arrived from Dhaka, Bangladesh, and will leave Thursday for Jakarta to make similar requests. Dr. Abdullah Fadzil also said that Malaysia has placed all its missions in West Asia on alert, with instructions for embassy staff and families to be evacuated immediately in the event of war. "We have given instructions to all our ambassadors that if at any time there is threat of war or to the security of our staff, they should be evacuated immediately," he added.

The missions were placed on alert following the Aug 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the imminent threat of an Iraqi attack against neighbouring Saudi Arabia. An estimated 600 Malaysians are registered with the missions in Riyadh and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and about 80 Malaysian students are in Jordan. Dr. Abdullah Fadzil also advised Malaysians in those countries to return home as a safety measure in case there are travel problems later should the Gulf crisis spread to neighbouring states. About 150 Malaysians in Kuwait and 30 others in Iraq are in the process of being evacuated to Amman, Jordan, after they were stranded there following the Iraqi invasion.

Mahathir on Aid to Developing Countries, Kuwait

BK1408051390 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Speaking at a ceremony in Terengganu State stadium, where he was presented the Third World countries youth award, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed said Malaysia is willing to provide assistance to countries that are less fortunate and suffering because this will not hurt anybody. He said that Malaysia is willing to help other Third World countries because its foreign policy calls for cooperation with such countries and those countries are considered friends of Malaysia.

According to Dr. Mahathir, many developing countries are in a difficult situation just like Malaysia was in the past. Malaysia is now more fortunate because it has prospered and its development is rated fifth among Third World countries. He also said that there are lots of advantages for a country which establishes relations with many other countries, because whenever it is in trouble, the other countries can provide help in one way or other. He cited as an example the period when Malaysia and Indonesia were in confrontation. At that time, Malaysia had only European countries as friends so it did not receive support from neighboring countries at the United Nations to solve the issue.

He said it is wise for Malaysia to be friendly with other Third World countries, because then mutual help can be given. These countries have expertise in certains field and Malaysia can learn from them.

[Begin Mahathir Recording] I would like to draw your attention to the fate of Kuwait. This has become the main topic in the newspapers that we read everyday. A small country has been invaded by a neighbor. Kuwait is now looking for friends. Even though it is rich, it is weak. We think about its fate and we wonder what will happen if no other countries help it? As a Muslim country, it definitely accepts help from another Muslim country. But which other Muslim countries are able to help Kuwait? Not many can help Kuwait expel the Iraqi colonials. Even it they could help, they are not strong enough or capable enough. That is why we understand how Saudi Arabia was forced to receive U.S. assistance. We, ourselves, do not like the U.S. actions. But if we are desperate and our country is about to be conquered are we able to choose among those who could help us? [end recording]

Unemployment Rate Reportedly Less Than Expected

BK1508091590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] More than 290,000 new job seekers are expected to be employed in the country this year, significantly higher than the 220,000 new job seekers expected to enter the labor market. The Manpower Department said the level of unemployment could be less than 6.5 percent against 7.3 percent a year ago. This is related by annual employment trend bulletin which said that significantly large number of unemployed had successfully secured jobs in the first half of this year as a result of the continued bouyant economy. The bulk of new jobs will continue to be carried contributed by the manufacturing sector as more workers are needed to step up production to meet high field orders.

Singapore

Prime Minister Lee's Last National Day Message

BK0908104290 Singapore THE STAITS TIMES in English 9 Aug 90 p 29

["The Prime Minister's National Day Message"—THE STRAITS TIMES headline]

[Text] 1990 looks another good year. We have made 8.4 per cent growth for the first half of this year. We have done well since we recovered from the recession of 1985. This is because our fundamentals are sound: a people who want to educate their children to be the best they can, workers who work to acheive ever higher productivity, a free market system which encourages competition between enterprises, and an honest and efficient government.

The international situation has changed fundamentally. The tensions caused by the hostility of the communist Soviet Union and China against the democratic countries have vanished. Communism has collapsed worldwide. New balances between the great and major powers in Europe and in Asia will have to be found to maintain peace and stability. Except for the danger of higher oil prices, caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the economic outlook is good. This year the Swiss organisations which publish the World Competitiveness Report have again ranked Singapore as No. 1 out of 10 developing countries.

Prospects of growth have been increased by President Suharto and Dr Mahathir endorsing the Growth Triangle. Johor, Batam (Riau) and Singapore provide a unique mix of complementary conditions favourable to investments in all three. The three are in different stages of development and are complementary to each other. Growth in any one will not be at the expense of the others.

Because Johor and Batam (Riau) will have access to Singapore's infrastructure and technology, they will shorten their development process or what the experts call the "learning curves". But once Johor and Batam (Riau) have built up their industrial foundations, Singapore will face tougher competition from them, because they have the potential to overtake Singapore.

Johor has basic infrastructures already in place. They will get better as they industrialise. If Johor workers catch up with Singaporeans in technical education and productivity, it can displace Singapore as the centre of gravity of the triangle.

If Kuala Lumpur backs Johor with priority in infrastructure and builds polytechnics and engineering faculties there, Johor can reach our technical educational levels in 15-20 years. And because they have greater manpower, land and other resources, if they catch up with us in technical education they will overtake us economically.

Batam (Riau) will need a longer time to do this because their infrastructure does not equal that of Johor. But Indonesia is a vast country with enormous resources. If Jakarta decides to give to Batam (Riau) more development funds for infrastructure and education, they also can catch up with Singapore.

Singapore's competitive advantages are all man-made. We do not have the manpower size or the resources to compare with Malaysia or Indonesia.

According to the World Competitiveness Report, at present Indonesia has 30,000 people in R&D [research and development] compared to 6,000 in Singapore and 3,000 in Malaysia. In other words, the Growth Triangle can put Singapore's leading position at risk in the longer term.

Two examples of this catch-up and overtake process are Germany and Japan. Both were dependent on American technology, capital and trade, when they started from a very low base after-World War II. Both have now equalled, and in several sectors have overtaken America.

But [Deputy Prime Minister] Goh Chok Tong's team has decided to take this risk rather than grow on our own without giving Johor and Batam (Riau) the linkages that will shorten their development process. With the Growth Triangle, all three will have higher standards of living.

Better-off neighbours will be good for bilateral relations. On balance, the risk is worthwhile. The three will cooperate with and also compete against each other, which is what the industrial countries like US, Japan and Germany do all the time. Every country wants to move to higher technology and more value-added.

In the last analysis, it is the quality of technical education and training that will decide who has the better workers with the higher productivity.

Goh Chok Tong's team is confident that Singapore can find niches in the world economy in which Singaporeans can excel and stay ahead. This means that we must always move on to higher skills and acquire new knowledge, otherwise we will be overtaken. But that is the case anyway even without the Growth Triangle competitors, for we already have competitors in Hongkong, Taiwan and South Korea.

My generation, the old guards, have done what we can for the stability and security on which we built an economy that gives Singaporeans a decent life. Our final duty is to ensure that we have successors who can continue our work. We have done this by selecting and testing out a team of some of the ablest and most dedicated of Singaporeans. They are the best we could find and persuade to take on this responsibility.

It has taken nearly 20 years to bring this team together. The oldest is Ong Teng Cheong, 54 years old, (1972 General Election) and the youngest is George Yeo, 35 years old, (1988 General Election).

Under ever changing circumstances, younger leaders have to take the right decisions to ensure security, stability and growth for Singapore.

In most countries, men who go into politics are officially very poorly paid. They get their rewards in other ways like commissions, kickbacks, patronage and perks. In America it is through contacts and consultancies when they leave office. We should not follow such practices. We cannot run a clean above-board system and ask men and women to lower their earnings for many years. We have worked out a realistic system, paying as near market returns as is practical. But many still lose on what they could have earned outside; and their loss of privacy is not replaceable.

I would urge Singaporeans to continue to support this policy of encouraging our best to go into politics as MPs [members of Parliament], from whom we can choose the ministers. Do not try to get a government on the cheap. Money politics will result in a poor bunch of MPs, plus a lot of hypocrisy, fiddling and eventually dishonesty and corruption.

The old guards have persuaded and co-opted into politics some of the best of their next generation. If they in turn continue this process and get enough of the ablest and the best of each younger generation into Parliament and into the Cabinet, Singapore will be well served.

This is my last National Day Broadcast as Prime Minister. I want to thank all those who have helped me in my work as Prime Minister for the last 31 years. All the older ministers and MPs have retired. I have not forgotten the 1950s and '60s when their courage and unstinting support helped to turn the tide of events.

I am especially grateful to the many ordinary people who placed their trust in me and supported me through the deeply troubled years of 1961-63 when the communists were so menacing, and also through the tension laden years of 1963-65 when communal intimidation and rioting were so oppressive.

I also wish to thank the younger generation; without their support and contributions in the 1970s and '80s, including their sacrifice in accepting a 15 per cent cut in CPF [Central Provident Fund] for several years, today's Singapore would not have been.

Editorial Views Significance of Li Peng Visit

BK1308121590 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Aug 90 p 24

[Unattributed editorial: "Formalising Existing Times"]

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng arrives today for a three-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. As he will be flying in from Jakarta after presiding over the resumption of formal ties with Indonesia following a break of 23 years, it is only natural to place his trip in the context of the impending establishment of formal Sino-Singapore ties. Apart from discussions over the impact of the dramatic policy shift on Cambodia by the United States, Mr. Li's meeting with Mr. Lee is indeed likely to be dominated by the question of ties. However, given Singapore's well-known position that it will establish full diplomatic relations with Beijing after Indonesia has done so, there is really nothing to be excited about over the question. China, Taiwan and Singapore's ASEAN neighbours must have long factored the relevance of this eventuality into their foreign policy calculations.

In practical terms, there is likely to be little difference. Singapore has long been maintaining active economic relations with China in the absence of formal ties. In particular, since Mr Deng Xiaoping launched China's modernisation programmes in 1978, economic cooperation between the two countries has been close. Last year, two-way trade totalled $5.65 billion, with Singapore importing crude oil and petroleum products, textiles and foodstuffs, and exporting refined oil and petroleum products and electronics items. The upgrading of trade offices in each country to full embassies is unlikely to bring about dramatic changes. For China though, there is the added significance of a little diplomatic triumph of sorts. Despite the little practical difference it will make, formalising official relations with an economically vibrant trade partner in Southeast Asia will not be unhelpful to post-Tiananmen China's diplomatic profile.

Although no contentious issues are expected to be raised during Mr. Li's talks with Mr. Lee, the question of the status of Singapore-Taiwan relations after the formalisation of Sino-Singapore ties may need some smoothening out. Given the fact that many countries with which China has established relations have continued to trade with and receive investment from Taiwan, China is not expected to object to Singapore's declared intention to continue its close economic relations with Taiwan. Indeed, there is little cause for objection so long as Singapore ensures that the conduct of economic affairs raises no question remotely related to diplomatic recognition. China may, however, be more sensitive about the Starlight Project, by which the Singapore Armed Forces [SAF] is accorded the privilege of using training facilities in Taiwan.

It can well be understood why a country should feel uneasy about a newly acquired diplomatic friend maintaining some form of military ties with an island it considers rebellious and with which it is still technically at war. But there is really no military cooperation between Singapore and Taiwan in the conventional sense. China should by now have understood Singapore's serious commitment to national defence as a sine qua non of national survival. It is also easy to see why a credible defence force cannot be set up with training available only on the tiny island. For Singapore, the availability of overseas training facilities is intricately related to the effectiveness of its national defence, and hence survival. For obvious reasons, both Singapore and its ASEAN neighbours are not ready to face the prospect of China making available training facilities to the SAF. The retention of the Taiwanese facilities is thus a matter of national survival for Singapore and is likely to be nonnegotiable vis-a-vis the formalisation of Sino-Singapore ties. We believe that Mr. Li, as a seasoned politician, will be able to understand Singapore's stand on this vital issue and allow good sense to prevail.

Cambodia

Chea Sim Speaks at KUFNCD Congress Closing

BK1508135590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] This morning [14 August] a ceremony was solemnly held at the National Assembly to close the fourth congress of the Fourth Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] National Council.

Present in the presidium of the ceremony were Comrade Chea Sim, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of both the Council of Ministers and the KUFNCD National Council; and Superior Bonze Tep Vong, vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council, as well as several representatives of provincial and municipal KUFNCD committees and the muslim community.

For three and a half days, participants at the congress attentively listened to reports reviewing KUFNCD work in the first half of the year and its nationwide targets that will be implemented during the second half of the year. They also heard General Secretary Heng Samrin'speech, and the report on the resolutions adopted at the 11th session of the Fifth Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee presented by Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political chef de cabinet of the KPRP Central Committee, and chairman of the Central Committee Organization Commission.

The congress participants unanimously endorsed the appeal and the session resolutions read by Comrade General Bou Thang. They also conferred the Council of Ministers' labor medals on 16 leading cadres of various offices and departments. The congress also presented the Council of Ministers' citation certificates to 57 outstanding cadres for organizing the 10th anniversary of the 7 January national day; KUFNCD National Council's citation certificates to 40 provincial and municipal KUFNCD units and 25 individuals; and KUFNCD National Council's commendation letters to 13 units and 16 individuals who produced some feats in the 1989-90 Front proselytization movement.

Afterward, Comrade Chairman Chea Sim made the following speech to close the congress:

[Begin recording] Our fourth congress, having been very analytical, profoundly dicussive, and appropriate to the current circumstances, is an important contribution to the concrete implementation of the resolutions and programs of actions adopted by the 11th session of the party Central Committee. It has closely adhered to the results of the recent 19th session of the First National Assembly. The linkage between the Front's roles and tasks to the overall situation of the motherland at this new juncture, where we are independently rebuilding and defending it against the genocidal Pol Pot regime's attempt to return to power in Cambodia, more clearly reflects the importance of mass agitation work which, under all circumstances, continues to be the core work and the vital factor for achieving victories and defending and developing our social gains.

Stemming from this fundamental concept, the congress has concentrated attention on strengthening and expanding the activities, capabilities, and work potential of the Front and mass organizations at all levels. This is to bring success to their well-defined role and function as the bridge linking the party and state authorities to the people. In so doing, it has shown a new quality and effectiveness; a profound, all-around attacking character; and a sense of harmony and unity throughout the country.

Beloved congress participants: The rebirth of our national society during the past 11 years has been taking place with the restoration and reconstruction of everything that constitutes the heart of our national economy—culture, civilization, religion, legitimate interests, honor, and dignity, as well as the rights and freedoms of our people. The transformation from an empty-handed, ruined, barbaric, and illegal nation under the genocidal Pol Pot regime, where people were deprived of ownership, to a strong, prosperous, and legal society, where people have recovered their ownership, is a heavy responsibility in which difficulties and obstacles are unavoidable. It is particularly difficult when our country is in a state of both peace and war, when we continue to suffer from the ceaseless destruction at the hands of the tripartite coalition with the genocidal Pol Pot gang as its backbone.

Despite the fact that our party, government, and people throughout the country are sincerely yearning for peace and early national reconciliation, the enemies of all stripes are stubbornly prolonging the war in an attempt to allow the genocidal Pol Pot gang to return to power in Cambodia. As a matter of fact, they have continued to try through all possible means to wreak havoc on us in all fields. In particular, they have continued to try to split our unity and internal solidarity and win over the people, knowing that people are a key factor of our victory. The peaceful existence, prosperity, and happiness of the people living under the regime of the State of Cambodia undoubtedly results in unhappiness and indignation to the enemies of all stripes. For this reason, they have made every effort to ferret out our tiniest internal dispute and exploit our smallest weakness to make the people lose faith in our new regime, and usurp their support in a bid to prepare themselves once and for all for a role in a political solution.

From this fact, we can clearly see the importance of mass agitation work in the historic new stage where it is necessary to muster efforts and be more active than ever in enhancing the faith of the people in our new regime. In addition, we must also resolutely defend the gains of national society; realize the life-and-death risk of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return to power; and urge the masses to participate in national reconstruction and defense, respect and implement laws, resolutely believe in the party line and policy, and maintain strong solidarity and unity around the KPRP.

Our congress participants fully agree with each other on the tasks and objectives that had been defined. Consequently, once they return to their bases, members of the Front National Council and provincial and municipal KUFNCD committees must continue to research and study all the programs of actions. They must also take measures to concretely and effectively implement them with a high sense of responsibility.

In all movements and activities, front members at all levels must have ways to guide and promote new activities in mass agitation. This is so that they can conduct ideological work among the masses in order to keep pace with the rapid evolution and the many changes in the situation of our motherland.

At this new stage, on the strength of the achievements and experiences gained over the past 11 years, it is imperative to continue efforts to turn the work of the KUFNCD and mass organizations into a combined, concrete undertaking of the entire party, Armed Forces, and people. In this sense, in order to heighten the role, effectiveness, and actual activities of the Front and mass organizations in national society, it is necessary to continue building and consolidating the organizational networks; stay close to grass roots; and delve deep among the masses in order to win their warm and massive support and cooperation. It is imperative to continue tempering and educating the ranks of front cadres and members at the grass-roots, village, and ward levels. This is to enable them to carry out the Front's work, to motivate the masses, and to implement well the task of strengthening and expanding the bonds of great solidarity of the entire people so as to contribute successfully to all political undertakings of the party and state, the implementation of the resolutions of the front congress and, to a great extent, to the expansion of ideological work.

In the new situation, it is imperative to pay close attention to the implementation of the policy on intellectuals, the policy on religions, the policy on ethnic people, and the policy on fraternal overseas Cambodians in a bid to mobilize all these forces and enable them to firmly unite and actively contribute to the cause of national defense and reconstruction.

In particular, it is imperative to intensify efforts to motivate youths to volunteer for their national defense duty, implement rear and frontline policies, proselytize misled people, flush out hidden enemy agents, and cut off the enemy's supplies. The KUFNCD and mass organizations at all levels must actively, simultaneously, and constantly carry them out because this is vital to our motherland.

As the enemies of all stripes are becoming more savage and ferocious in all their schemes against our national society's rebirth, all levels and sectors must study, research, and work out new ways by firmly adhering to the basis of state laws in order to effectively enhance the work quality and to [words indistinct] really beneficial to our national society. This is so as to conform ourselves to the resolutions of the 11th session of the party Central Committee and the outcome of the recent 19th National Assembly session.

To our State of Cambodia, especially to the KUFNCD, the year 1990 is the 12th anniversary of our Front and a year in which the struggle between us and the enemies has reached a new stage. For this reason, it is necessary for front committees at all levels to think and work hard to fight and eliminate all negative phenomena and other weaknesses. This is to simultaneously boost our Front's undertakings everywhere and to turn it into strong support for our party and state in administering the country, society, and economy. Especially [words indistinct] it is necessary to remember that in persuading and educating the people on whatever matter, we should impregnate them with revolutionary ideology while in motivating the people to undertake any task, we should take them as the [word indistinct].

In conclusion, I would like to express incomparable congratulations and admiration for the results of our congress, and wish all members of our Front National Council and all congress participants the best of health and successes in all tasks in 1990 and the years to come. I hereby declare the fourth congress of the Fourth KUFNCD National Council closed. [applause] [end recording]

The ceremony concluded in an atmosphere of great solidarity, friendship, and joyous cordiality.

Deputy Defense Minister Visits Border Troops

BK1508044590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Summary] A party and state delegation led by Lieutenant General Nhim Vanda, member of the party

Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and chief of the Logistics Department; accompanied by Phang Saret, alternate member of the party Central Committee and deputy trade minister; Major General Loy Sophat, deputy interior minister; and Nguon Pen, deputy finance minister, on 4 August visited people and learned about the life of cadres and combatants on the frontline in western and northwestern Cambodia, including the 4th Division, the regiment from Kandal Province, Armed Forces units from Ratanamondol District, Battambang Province, the 67th Armored Regiment, and the Military School of Battambang Province.

The delegation distributed gifts consisting of canned food, mosquito nets, sugar, cigarettes, and money to cadres and combatants. It also conferred awards on outstanding individuals and units. Citation certificates of the Council of Ministers were given out to 11 outstanding individuals and four units. Thirty individuals and three units received the Defense Ministry's citation certificates.

On 5 August, the delegation also distributed some supplies and a lot of money to cadres and combatants in the 6th Division, the forces of Bavel District, Battambang Province, and the militiamen in Kdol Ta Hen commune, while Lt. Gen. Nhim Vanda decorated some outstanding individuals and units.

During the visit, Lt. Gen. Nhim Vanda praised and appreciated the heroism and achievements of cadres and combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces and called on logistic cadres to pay attention to timely solving the supply problems for cadres and combatants.

Continues Tour

BK1608054990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Between 10 and 13 August, a party-state delegation led by Comrade Lieutenant General Nhim Vanda, member of the party Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and chief of the General Logistics Department, visited cadres and combatants of the Mobile Battalion attached to the 4th Military Region, the 41st Regiment, the 3d Mobile Battalion of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, and various other units.

During the visit, the delegation distributed gifts consisting of commodities and some money to our cadres and combatants and decorated some outstanding cadres and combatants—Second Class Victory Medals given to four individuals and a unit and Third Class Victory Medals to 12 individuals.

Comrade Lieutenant General Nhim Vanda conveyed the greetings and best wishes from the high-ranking party and state leaders to all cadres and combatants. He also praised the feats made by cadres and combatants of our Armed Forces who have established firm footing following the total repatriation of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia.

On the afternoon of 13 August, the party-state delegation returned safely to Phnom Penh.

National Bank Announces Currency Devaluation

BK1408122590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 14—The National Bank of Cambodia has announced in a recent communique the devaluation of the riel (Cambodian currency). The new exchange rate is 460 riels to the U.S. dollar, instead of 360 riels as fixed in May 1990 and 218 riels in November last year.

The communique also announced other new exchange rates:

—750 riels to the British pound sterling;
—80.70 riels to the French franc;
—317.22 riels to the Swiss franc;
—270.59 riels to the Deutsche mark;
—58.97 riels to the Hong Kong dollar;
—383.33 riels to the Canadian dollar;
—353.85 riels to the Australian dollar;
—30.59 riels to the Japanese yen;
—248.65 riels to the Singaporean dollar;
—15 riels to the Thai baht.

Phnom Penh Reports Armed Forces Operations

Phnom Penh City Actions Jan-Jun

BK1508050190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0438 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 15—In the first six months of this year, the army units of Phnom Penh city in cooperation with the Armed Forces of the northwestern border provinces annihilated 146 enemy troops, wounded 102, captured 96, unmasked 368 clandestine enemy agents, and forced 479 others to surrender.

They seized 110 assorted guns and a quantity of other war means and destroyed 17 enemy shelters, two arms depots and one enemy command post.

According to military sources, on August 6, the government forces wiped out three Sonsannians and wounded a number of others in Sereisaophoan District, Banteay Meanchey Province, 360 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

In the meantime, the government troops killed three enemy troops, wounded five and seized two guns and ten anti-tank B-40 rocket shells in Angkor Chum District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

Kompong Thom Activities Noted

BK1308091390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] In first half of 1990, the people's security forces in all localities in Kompong Thom Province, jointly with the provincial and district Armed Forces and village and commune militia units, launched 202 sweep operations against the enemies. As a result, they killed 391 enemy soldiers, wounded 178, and captured 19 others. They also seized 38 assorted weapons, 1,085 rounds of ammunition, 29 mines, and 14 hand grenades.

The security forces throughout the province also launched 78 independent operations during which they killed 26 enemy soldiers, wounded 16, and captured two others. They also seized 16 weapons and a quantity of war materiel.

Due to this vigorous offensive by our security forces, 101 enemy soldiers turned themselves in to our authorities and people, bringing along 27 weapons and a large quantity of war materiel.

In addition to sweeping these jungle bandits, the security forces throughout Kompong Thom Province launched operations to dismantle implanted enemy networks in their localities. As a result, they seized six weapons, two mines, and a hand grenade.

4th Division Battles Reported

BK1108110390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In the 1989-90 dry season campaign, cadres and combatants of the 4th Division heightened their spirit to fight, smash the enemies and deal serious blows to the bandits of the three reactionary Cambodian groups.

During this period, our forces killed 271 enemy soldiers and wounded many others; six were taken prisoner. We seized 55 assorted weapons, over 30 tonnes of ammunition, and a lot of other war materiel. This fine result is due to the good organization and astuteness of leading cadres who fought strategically. This enabled us to score high results against the enemies. Logistic units also did their job timely, ensuring good health and daily rations for our cadres and combatants. The units also paid attention to building real forces to serve as the core in leading the struggle and to further build and consolidate the units. Technical and tactical training courses had been organized by units under the division, enabling our cadres and combatants to increase their knowledge and capability.

Actions in Border Provinces Noted

BK1508055190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] On 4 August, units of the C-24 forces and militiamen of Kdol Ta Hen commune in Bavel District, Battambang Province, ambushed and killed five enemy soldiers and wounded six others. Five AK's were seized and a 120-mm mortar and 60 DK-75-mm shells were destroyed.

On 2 August in the Svay Chek area in Banteay Meanchey Province, we killed 140 enemy soldiers, wounded 136 others, and took two prisoners. We also seized 15 assorted weapons, two ICOM field radios, and 8,856 rounds of various types of ammunition.

Our Armed Forces are currently heightening their fighting spirit and are constantly alert to ensuring security for the people and to firmly defending their positions, and in particular, to absolutely preventing attempts by the genocidal Pol Pot regime to return.

More on Border Provinces

BK1408070990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 90

["Reports from the frontline"]

[Text] According to reports from Banteay Meanchey Province, our combined forces recently carried out activities in the areas of Khchas, Tbeng, and Snhaev, about 17 km northeast of Sisophon. We clashed with the enemy, killing three and seizing three weapons as well. One of the cornered enemy soldiers surrendered to our units with a B-40.

Moreover, according to reports from Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, our Armed Forces on 5 August carried out searching operations about 17 km northwest of Chikreng, killing one and wounding three enemy soldiers. On 6 August, the C-45 and C-48 forces of Angkor Thom District, in cooperation with militia forces, launched mopping up operations against the bandits of the three reactionary Cambodian groups over 10 km north of Angkor Thom District. In these operations, our forces killed five enemy soldiers, including a group officer. We seized an AK-59 rifle and a quantity of other materiel.

Units of all types of our people's Armed Forces—regular and district troops, militiamen, and police—are currently cooperating closely and continue to carry out activities to search, mop up, and ambush the enemy to ensure safety and security in the areas in which they are stationed to create conditions for the people to earn their living and carry out well this rainy season's production.

6 Aug Operations Outlined

BK1008141890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports from frontline battlefields, after receiving a report on 6 August that the enemies were attempting to infiltrate some villages in the east of the district in order to wreak havoc upon our people, cadres and combatants from the armed unit of Sereisaophoan District of Banteay Meanchey Province launched a number of ambushes against them. As a result, our forces killed three enemy soldiers and wounded many others who were carried away by their comrades.

On the same day, the Armed Forces of Angkor Chum District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, mounted search-and-destroy operations against the enemies in the southeastern part of the district, killing three and wounded five enemy soldiers and seizing one AK assault rifle, one K-54 gun, 10 B-40 rockets, and some war materiel.

The successes gained on the two battlefields have continuously dispirited the three groups of enemies while our Armed Forces have become increasingly self-reliant and have continued to hold the upper hand. At present, our Armed Forces continue to search for the enemies with a view toward firmly defending their positions and effectively providing security and tranquillity for the people.

Drought Affects Farming in Kampot Province

BK1108154090 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1132 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 11—The monsoon cultivation at Angkor Chey District, Kampot Province, about 150 km southwest of Phnom Penh, has been badly affected by a long spell of drought which is causing peasants' concern over their rice harvest.

Up to late July, the local peasants had been able to nurse rice seedlings on only 156 ha [hectares] and grow rice on 250 ha. This shows a sharp decrease as compared with the same period last year when 10,000 ha were put under rice.

The weather bureau in Phnom Penh has predicted much rainfall in this monsoon in every part of the country and almost no dryness from July to Auguest at the coastal areas. However, the maximum level of rainfall registered at Angkor Chey District, which borders Takeo Province, is, up to now, only 100 millimetres.

The local agriculture service estimated that even if there might be sufficient rain later in the season, the peasants would not be able to achieve the plan of monsoon rice cultivation for 19,530 ha, or 3,000 ha more than last year's figure.

Anyway, the peasants have closely cooperated with the local authorities in striving to fulfill the target. They are making full use of the four pumping machines provided by the agriculture service and even rudimentary means to get water to the rice fields. The two pumping stations in the district are also working at full speed.

The agriculture sevice has supplied 6,000 litres of fuel to the peasants to work their own pumping machines.

Radio Reports Farming Activities Until 4 Aug

BK1408072390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 90

[All figures as heard]

[Summary] According to the Agriculture Ministry's Agronomy Department, from the beginning of the rainy season to 4 August, nearly 69,900 hectares [ha] of rice had been sowed, or nearly 21,800 ha more than the previous year; and another 305,600 ha had been broadcast or transplanted, or nearly 16 percent of the plan representing an increase of 88,490 ha over 1989. The Meteorology Department reports that a spell of drought in July and mid-August has caused some difficulties for the peasants.

Concerning the rainy season rice production, Battambang Province has so far planted 16,160 ha, or 42 percent of the plan; Banteay Meanchey 51,850 ha, or 32 percent of the plan; and Kompong Thom Province 39,300 ha, or 26 percent of the plan.

Phnom Penh Reports Outbreak of Dengue Fever

BK1408071390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Summary] In the last two weeks of July, 444 children in Phnom Penh were affected by dengue fever. According to the Center for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases, this year's rate has increased to about the same as in 1985 when this disease was widely spread. According to the deputy director of the Center, the cause of the disease is a type of mosquito combined with the past few days' rain, lack of hygiene, and the delay in clearing rubbish heaps in the city.

Heng Samrin Congratulates Hungarian President

BK1508063590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0435 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 15—Heng Samrin, president of the State Council, has sent warmest congratulations to His Excellency Arpad Conz on his election as president of the Republic of Hungary.

His message reads: "I would like to express my cordial and sincere congratulations to you on your election to the post of president of the Republic of Hungary.

"On behalf of the Cambodian people, I avail myself of this opportunity to express profound thanks to the people of the Republic of Hungary for their support to the Cambodian people's cause of peace.

"I'm firmly convinced that the flourishing ties of friendship and cooperation between the State of Cambodia and the Republic of Hungary will serve the interests of our two peoples and social progress in our countries, and contribute to peace in the world as a whole.

"Please, Your Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest considerations," the message concluded.

Heng Samrin Congratulates Bulgarian President

BK1608054590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0408 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 16—State Council President Heng Samrin has sent warmest congratulations to Zhelyu Zhelev on his election as president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

In his congratulatory message, President Heng Samrin says: "On behalf of the Cambodian people, and in my own name, I would like to express profound thanks to the Bulgarian people for their precious support and assistance to the Cambodian people in the quest of peace."

"I firmly believe that the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples would be further developed and strengthened with every passing day, in the interests of our two peoples and social progress in our countries and of peace in the world," the message concluded.

Heng Samrin Greets Congo on National Day

BK1508063990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0445 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 15—Cambodian party and government leaders have extended warm greetings to their Congolese counterparts on the 27th national day of the People's Republic of Congo (August 15).

The message was addressed by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council, to General Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Central Committee of the Congolese Party of Labour [CPL], president and premier of the People's Republic of Congo.

It says: "We rejoice at the remarkable development achieved by the Congolese people over the past decades. We are convinced that under the clear-sighted leadership of the CPL with you at the head, the fraternal Congolese people will obtain new, bigger successes in the implementation of the economic development programme and in the democratization of the Congolese society.

"May the solidarity and friendship between our parties, governments and peoples of Cambodia and Congo develop with every passing day."

President Heng Samrin wished his Congolese counterpart the best of health and success in his highly responsible task for the well-being of the Congolese people.

On the same occasion, Hun Sen, as foreign minister of Cambodia, has also sent greetings to his Congolese counterpart, Antoine Ndinga-Oba.

Supreme Command Condemns SRV 'Maneuvers'

BK1608040590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Aug 90

["Communique of the Supreme Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea on aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese authorities continuing to send fresh Vietnamese troops to Cambodian battlefields in order to resist the Cambodian national resistance forces"; dated 15 August]

[Text] Since the puppet soldiers and Vietnamese troops disguised as puppet soldiers, together with Vietnamese troops in hiding in the jungle, have been routed, smashed, and dispersed continuously by our Cambodian national resistance forces, the aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese authorities have sent more fresh Vietnamese forces to the Cambodian battlefields, particularly to various battlefields where fighting continues fiercely, to resist our Cambodian national resistance forces in order to prolong their defeat, thus enabling them to carry on their deceitful diplomacy for further occupying Cambodia.

In only 20 days, that is from 20 July to 9 August, the aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese authorities sent nearly 5,000 fresh Vietnamese troops from Vietnam to the Cambodian battlefields. This does not include artillery, tanks, and other weaponry. These troops were sent to the following areas:

On 20 July, 300 troops were sent to Kompong Thmar township, Baray District, Kompong Thom Province, together with three 105-mm cannons and two tanks.
—On 28 July, 300 troops were sent to Phnom Penh.
—On 30 July, 330 troops were sent to Trapeang Andeuk commune, Chhuk District, Kampot Province; 1,500 troops were sent to Phnum Sruoch District, Kompong Speu Province.
—On 31 July, 960 troops were sent to Preah Vihear Province and 300 were sent to Meaks commune, Stoeng Trang District, Kompong Cham Province.
—On 5 August, 600 troops were sent to Kampot provincial seat and Chakrei Ting factory together with four 105-mm cannons and four tanks.
—On 6 August, 390 troops were sent to Chamka Dong and along the trail in Don Yoy commune, Chhuk District, Kampot Province.
—On 9 August, 150 troops were sent to Peam commune, Kompong Tralach District, Kompong Chhnang Province.

All these are clear evidence that the aggressor Hanoi authorities do not want to seek a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem which was caused by Vietnamese aggression and that they will not abandon their ambitions and their Indochinese Federation strategy. On the contrary, the aggressor Hanoi authorities stubbornly have continued to maintain and defend the aggressive regime which they installed in Cambodia so they can further occupy Cambodia through this Vietnamese puppet regime.

This is why the aggressor Hanoi authorities have rejected the important role of the United Nations and the dispatch of an international control mechanism and UN international peacekeeping force to supervise the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, the ceasefire, and the cessation of aid to all Cambodian factions as successively demanded and decided upon by the international community, particularly the ASEAN countries and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The Supreme Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] condemns these maneuvers of the aggressor Hanoi authorities in sending more troops to carry on their war of aggression in Cambodia and in refusing to settle their war of aggression comprehensively through political means in order to postpone their defeat, thus enabling them to carry on their deceitful diplomacy to redress their defeat in Cambodia and further occupy Cambodia.

At the same time, the NADK Supreme Command would like to call on the international community, particularly the countries which cherish peace, justice, and independence across the world, to further condemn the aggressor Hanoi authorities and to continue pressuring them to really withdraw all their aggressor troops and forces from Cambodia and to agree to a UN international control mechanism and a UN international peacekeeping force to supervise the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, the cease-fire, the cessation of arms aid to all Cambodian factions, and free, correct, and fair general elections.

Only when Vietnam accepts all these points can the Cambodian problem, which was caused by the Vietnamese aggression, be settled comprehensively through political means and can Cambodia fully enjoy peace, independence, and sovereignty, thus contributing to peace, security, and stability in the whole of Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

15 August 1990
[Signed] The Supreme Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

Cambodians Said 'Convinced' of Continued Support

BK1008073990 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Station commentary: "Fighting Against the Vietnamese Aggressors to Liberate the Nation and Preserve the Cambodian Race Is the Sacred Right and Duty of Every Cambodian"]

[Text] The aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese sent hundreds of thousands of troops to openly invade and occupy Cambodia on 25 December 1978. This Vietnamese aggression is an utter and arrogant violation of the norms governing international relations and the UN Charter and destructive to peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia as a whole. For the past 11 years, the whole world, particularly the United Nations, has strongly condemned the aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese and firmly demanded that Vietnam withdraw all its troops from Cambodia unconditionally in order to allow the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny free from any outside interference.

In the face of this barbarous and cruel Vietnamese aggression, every Cambodian has the right to fight against the Vietnamese aggressors in order to liberate his country, defend his race, and enjoy his sacred right to self-determination like all other nations and peoples across the world. Meanwhile, many peace- and justice-loving countries throughout the world have, for the past nearly 12 years, constantly supported the just struggle waged by the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces. This is because they realize that supporting the Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors is, on the one hand, to defend the norms governing international relations and the UN Charter from being trampled upon at will by the aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese. If they allow the Vietnamese aggressors to occupy Cambodia at will, it will set a bad example for the aggressors and expansionists throughout the world. They will follow this example by bullying and committing aggression against others at will. This will be a great danger to peace, security, and the survival of the other smaller countries. Moreover, it will have a serious impact on peace, security, stability, and order in the whole world.

On the other hand, supporting the Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors contributes to safeguarding security and stability in all of Southeast Asia and to opposing the Vietnamese-Soviet strategies of aggression and expansion. Without the Cambodian people and Cambodian national resistance forces fighting against Vietnam over the past more than 11 years, to what extent would the Vietnamese-Soviet strategies of aggression and expansion have been advanced? To what extent would the Vietnamese have bullied the others? What would have become of the ASEAN countries and other countries in this region?

Therefore, the Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia is a threat to peace, security, and stability in this region as a whole.

The Cambodian nation and people have been fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors for nearly 12 years now. The Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces will not kneel down in submission to the barbarous Vietnamese aggressor forces of banditry.

So long as the Vietnamese aggressors stubbornly carry on their aggression and occupation of Cambodia, the Cambodian people and Cambodian national resistance forces will continue their sacred struggle for national independence, peace, security, stability, and national survival. They will also continue to struggle for their right to self-determination and will continue contributing to safeguarding peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia, Asia, the Pacific, and the whole world.

The Cambodian people are convinced that the world community which stands firm on justice and adheres to the norms governing international relations and the UN Charter will continue giving their support and assistance to this struggle waged by the Cambodian people and Cambodian national resistance forces until the Hanoi authorities are compelled to settle the Cambodian problem comprehensively through political means by withdrawing all their aggressor troops from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations jointly with the four Cambodian parties. Only in this way can Cambodia regain peace, security, independence, and sovereignty with its territorial integrity and can Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region enjoy peace, security, and stability and be free from all kinds of threats.

VONADK Notes 'Panic' in Kompong Thom Town

BK1508033590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Vietnamese enemy and puppet ringleaders of Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, lackeys of the Vietnamese enemy in Kompong Thom town, are really panicking because they clearly realize that the resistance forces will soon attack them again.

According to reports from people and secret agents of our Cambodian national resistance forces operating in Kompong Thom town, panic and confusion are seriously threatening the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and traitorous ringleaders of Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, lackeys of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Kompong Thom town. Some reports say people and the national resistance forces have brought ammunition close to Kompong Thom town from many directions. Others say large numbers of resistance troops were spotted here and there near the town. The Vietnamese soldiers and puppet and traitorous Hun Sen-Heng Samrin troops are in great fear every day. Some Cambodian soldiers have fled Kompong Thom town, and many others are looking out for opportunities to desert the Vietnamese enemy for home to escape death.

According to the reports, the Vietnamese enemy and puppet and traitorous Hun Sen-Heng Samrin ringleaders in Kompong Thom town have issued orders to their troops to be alert and ready to fight day and night. The reports also clearly specify that Cambodian soldiers in Kompong Thom town are not happy and are not obeying orders of the Vietnamese enemy and puppet and traitorous Hun Sen-Heng Samrin ringleaders. Cambodian soldiers say that when the resistance attack again next time, they will all flee. They say they will leave the Vietnamese enemy and puppet and traitorous Hun Sen-Heng Samrin ringleaders, lackeys of the Vietnamese enemy, to fight and die by themselves.

300 SRV Troops Said Shipped to Kompong Cham

BK1208043690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] On 31 July, the Hanoi enemy aggressors shipped 300 fresh Vietnamese troops wearing the puppet uniforms from Vietnam to Cambodia. These troops were sent along Route 1 via the Svay Rieng provincial town and along Route 15 via the Prey Veng provincial town. They were then brought along Route 7 to Tonle Bet township where they were sent further by boats to the Stoeng Trang district township. They were then trucked from there to Neak commune in Stoeng Trang District of Kompong Cham Province.

8 Villages in Kompong Thom 'Liberated' 7 Aug

BK1508022190 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] On the night of 7 August, our people, village and commune militiamen, and compatriot state authority officials, cooperated with our Cambodian national resistance forces in attacks to dismantle administrative networks and free local officials of the Vietnamese enemy along Stoeng Sen River in Kompong Svay District, Kompong Thom Province.

In the attacks, our people, local militiamen, state authority officials, and our Cambodian national resistance forces killed or wounded a number of Vietnamese soldiers and traitorous troops of Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, lackeys of the Vietnamese enemy. We seized 25 assorted weapons, liberated eight villages, and freed 50 state authority officials who have been forced to serve and die on behalf of the Vietnamese enemy in its war of aggression.

After the dissolution of the traitorous state authority, lackey of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, and after the establishment of our new national state authorities, all 50 compatriot Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and state authority officials, who had been freed from the grip of the Vietnamese enemy, have joined the resistance forces to further fight against the Vietnamese enemy. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Further Reportage on Reaction to Iraqi Invasion

Parliament Issues Condemnation

BK1608092890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, 16 Aug (AFP)—The Indonesian Parliament Thursday condemned Iraq's August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, saying it ran counter to the norms of international law.

"The Parliament condemns this agression because it clearly disregards the norms of international law as stipulated in the U.N. Charter," House Speaker Kharis Suhud said in a speech opening the Parliament's working season.

The invasion, Mr. Suhud said, also ran against the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, of which Baghdad is member.

He called on Iraq and Kuwait to settle their dispute at the negotiating table with the help of other Middle East countries, and for all sides "to refrain from creating further unrest."

The Parliament's position was stronger than that of the government, which has not condemned the invasion, but agreed to respect a trade embargo called by the U.N. Security Council.

Saudi Request for Troops Viewed

BK1608102190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0924 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 16 (OANA/ANTARA)—Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said here Thursday that Indonesia has no tradition of sending troops to settle conflict except as a part of the UN peacekeeping force.

In response to a question from newsmen on the request of the Saudi Arabian Government for an Indonesian military assistance to defend the kingdom from a possible Iraqi offensive, he said that however, Indonesia would welcome the Saudi envoy conveying such a request.

On whether it would be possible for Indonesia to provide help or support in different form, Murdiono said that the country itself was now busy with its various development programs.

The Saudi Ambassador to Indonesia Ta'lat Amin Hamdi here Wednesday said that his government would soon ask for a military assistance from Indonesia to settle the Gulf crisis.

He also said that Saudi's King Fahd bin 'Abd-al-Aziz would send Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz to convey the formal request to the Indonesian Government.

Army Says No UN Request for Troops

BK1608105690 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0947 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 16 (OANA/ANTARA)—Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno stated here Friday [day as received] that Indonesia would only send its troops abroad under the United Nations peace-keeping force. While Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Minister/State Secretary Murdiono had said that Indonesia had no tradition of sending forces to assist one of the conflicting parties in an international or regional dispute except under the United Nations peace-keeping force.

The three ranking government officials made the statements after attending a house plenary session at the congress building here to comment on Saudi request for the sending of the Indonesian forces to that country to defend it from possible Iraqi attack.

Saudi Ambassador to Indonesia Ta'lat Amin Hamdi told newsmen here Thursday that Saudi's King Fahd bin 'Abd-al-Aziz had decided to send a special envoy to Indonesia and other Islamic nations to ask for a military assistance to defend the kingdom from possible Iraqi offensive.

The presence of Indonesian forces, together with other forces from the Islamic world, is badly needed, mainly to protect two Moslem holy cities, Mecca and Medina, since forces from the Western nations are deployed far from both cities, the ambassador said.

According to Gen. Sutrisno, Indonesia as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement was consistent to the struggle for the creation of the world order as outlined in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution.

Indonesia is always prepared and consistent to implement its active and independent foreign policy, he insisted.

Answering a question on whether the Indonesian armed forces was prepared to assist Saudi Arabia, Gen. Sutrisno reaffirmed that Indonesia would only send its troops under the UN peace-keeping force.

However, he went on, there was no official request so far from the United Nations to Indonesia for the deployment of its troops to the Gulf area.

OPEC Members To Ensure Supplies

BK1608072590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0642 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Report by Sukardi Abdul Ghany]

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Indonesia has given an assurance to supply oil to the Philippines and other developing countries dependent on supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would take measures to ensure adequate supplies in view of the embargo on oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait.

In the case of Indonesia, [East] Asia's only OPEC member, it would give priority to supplying oil to the Philippines, he told newsmen here Wednesday.

Indonesia currently exports some 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, mostly to Japan, from its present output of 1.37 million bpd set by OPEC.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait earlier this month caused oil prices to soar in the international market to more than US$26 a barrel against the cartel's target price of US$21 a barrel.

Ginanjar said most OPEC countries had agreed that the world should use stockpiled oil instead of pressing producing countries to increase output. He added that consumer countries should also be responsible for maintaining market stability by drawing on their stockpiles rather than leaving it entirely to OPEC.

He believed that world commercial stocks are large enough to offset the drop in OPEC output for the next 80 days.

Venezuela and Saudi Arabia have asked for an emergency meeting of OPEC to discuss a possible increase in production.

At its ministerial meeting in Geneva last month, OPEC agreed to a new ceiling on total crude oil production of 22.5 million bpd, which included 3.14 million bpd from Iraq and 1.5 million bpd from Kuwait.

Ginanjar said Indonesia had raised the export price of its benchmark "Minas" [brand name] crude from its lowest level of US$14.81 a barrel last month to US$19.19 a barrel this month.

He predicted the price to surge further due to the prevailing situation in the Gulf region.

The minister said Minas was quoted at about US$26 a barrel on spot prices on Tuesday.

Indonesia, given a quota of 1.37 million bpd by OPEC, has rarely fully utilised the allocation, but it announced that it would meet the quota when the cartel raised the oil price to US$21 a barrel last month.

Diplomats Told To Leave Kuwait, Iraq

BK1508154790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0208 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 15 (AFP)—Indonesia has ordered all embassy personnel in Iraq and Kuwait to try to flee to Saudi Arabia in the face of increasing tension in the Gulf, the official ANTARA news agency said Wednesday.

All staff in the two embassies were told to go to the Saudi border where an Indonesian diplomat from the Riyadh embassy would greet them, ANTARA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

However, he said Indonesians in the two countries should try to adjust to the situation if they were unable to flee.

The spokesman said direct telephone contacts with the embassies in the two countries had been cut off.

He did not say how many Indonesians were in the two Gulf states. Officials have previously said there were 50 Indonesians in Kuwait.

Irian Jaya Command Captures 'Disturbance Makers'

BK1408103790 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0915 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Jayapura, Aug 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Trikora/8th Military Area Command here last week captured 11 more members of the Disturbance Makers Group (GPK), which was led by Melkianus (Melky) Salossa in the hinterland of Irian Jaya.

Their leader, Melky Salossa, 45, had already been captured last July, Trikora Command Information Officer Lieutenant Colonel Siswanto said here on Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Siswanto said security authorities strongly suspected these 11 trouble makers knew much about mass killings that had been perpetrated by the GPK group in Irian Jaya since 1987.

These include the killings of innocent civilians at the ARSO IV resettlement site on March 11, 1988, and the murders of workers at an oil palm plantation also in Arso on December 18, 1989.

They are also suspected of knowing much about plan to hoist the flag of West Melanesia on December 14, 1989.

The capture of the Melky Salossa followers was facilitated by information given by members of the public who have become more security conscious for the sake of development, Lt. Col. Siswanto said.

The 11 men are now under interrogation by security authorities.

There are now sufficient data and evidences in the possession of the Trikora Command to justify taking them to court for their crimes, Lt. Col. Siswanto said. Hopefully they will be brought to court in the near future, he said.

Private Firm-Government TV Venture Approved

BK1408100390 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Aug 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—President Suharto has approved a joint venture between a private company, the TVRI [Television of the Republic of Indonesia], and the Department of Education and Culture to operate a special television program for educational purposes that will also have commercials.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the head of state at the Bina Graha Presidential Office on Tuesday [31 July] morning, Information Minister Harmoko said he was not ready to reveal the name of the private company. "It will be officially announced after the signing of the joint venture agreement," he said.

The joint venture to operate the educational television program will be launched this month. The minister said that in addition to improving the quality of the people in general, the program is also aimed at making use of the Palapa satellite, several transponders of which have been leased by the TVRI.

The TVRI is now leasing the transponders for 24 hours, but is using them for eight to nine hours only. The special educational program may be aired three to four hours in the daytime. All possible options are now being studied. The minister said: "Obviously, the program will last more than 20-30 minutes." However, he did not mention the possibility of creating a new television channel. [passage omitted]

Laos

PASASON on Foreign Forces in Persian Gulf

BK1608035190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[PASASON article, date not given: "Can Presence of Foreign Troops Help Settle Problems in the Persian Gulf?"]

[Text] Until now, the situation in the Persian Gulf has remained unsettled. It has brought even more concern to the world people. The tense situation, which has resulted from disputes between the Arab nations, should be eased by the Arab people themselves. Yet, it has become deteriorated and has prolonged. The current confusion and the difficulties in settling the crisis might be due to foreign interferences.

It is apparent that public opinion in Arab countries has widely criticized the presence of foreign troops in the region. It has charged that by dispatching troops there, the United States has intended only to safeguard its own economic interests. At the same time, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn himself has also set conditions with his utmost efforts to force Israel to withdraw from its occupation of the territory in the west bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip. Despite the fact that his efforts to settle the disputes in the Middle East are yet to be successful, it is apparent that the attitude opposing the United States has been increased.

Simultaneously, the dissatisfaction of the Arab countries as seen in the recent summit in Cairo has not been settled among the Arab countries themselves through peaceful means. Instead, it has created conditions for the West to mobilize and dispatch more military forces to the region. This has shown the preparedness of the West to engage in a war with the Arab country—Iraq—despite the fact that various Arab countries have not agreed to the measure to impose sanctions against Iraq through the use of foreign troops. In view of this, the opposition movements in support of President Saddam Husayn have even been expanded. They have then constituted an encouragement and a conviction that the revival of an Islamic (?revolutionary group) to rule a country is a way out for the settlement of economic and other problems.

Though Algeria is a country which has gained vigorous support from Saudi Arabia, it has been sympathetic with President Saddam Husayn of Iraq. The demonstrations to strongly oppose the United States were widely held throughout the Arab world during the past week. King Husyan of Jordan has also expressed concern over the situation in the neighboring country. He believes the regional problems should be settled only by the Arab nations themselves.

Front Delegation Returns From Visit to PRC

BK1308150990 Vientiane KPL in English 0925 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Vientiane, August 13 (KPL)—A delegation of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] led by Mr. Bolang Boualapha, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and front vice president, arrived here on July 28, 1990 from the People's Republic of China.

The delegation's 10-day visit to China was made in reply to the invitation of the People's Political Consultative Conference of China. On July 19, the Lao delegation held talks with a delegation of the said Chinese conference led by its vice president. The two sides informed each other of their activities. The vice president of the council appreciated the visit to China by the Lao delegation.

He further said that the peoples of Laos and China had established ties of friendship and good will since ancient time. The two peoples backed each other in their national liberation. Their fraternal friendship was being improved and strengthened.

Mr. Bolang Boualapha expressed thanks to the host for the warm welcome and was convinced that the visit to China by the LFNC delegation would mark a major contribution to the consolidation and strengthening of the traditional friendship between Laos and China.

The LFNC vice president also paid a courtesy visit to a vice premier of China. [words indistinct]

Activities Cited

BK1408131390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] The delegation of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] led by Comrade Bolang Boualapha, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the LFNC Central Committee, recently returned to Vientiane after ending an official visit to the PRC at the invitation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Council.

Welcoming the delegation at Wattai Airport were Khamtan Thepbouali and Soulot Senkhamphon, standing members of the LFNC Central Committee, and a number of high-ranking cadres. Comrade Liang Feng, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, was also on hand at the airport to welcome the delegation.

During the 10-day visit to the PRC, the LFNC delegation was accorded a warm and intimate welcome by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the Chinese people wherever they visited.

On 19 July at the Chinese People's Great Hall, Comrade Lu Jiaxi, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met with the LFNC delegation. The two sides informed each other of their respective activities. Comrade Lu Jiaxi expressed wholehearted welcome to the LPDR delegation for paying a visit to the PRC. He said: The Chinese and Lao peoples had maintained the traditions of solidarity and friendship since ancient times and supported each other in their national liberation struggles. That fraternal friendship was being consistently consolidated and strengthened. The Chinese People's Consultative Conference was overwhelmingly proud to have established ties and cooperation with the LFNC. On behalf of the leadership of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Comrade Lu Jiaxi extended wholehearted greetings to the LFNC leaders.

Speaking on behalf of the LFNC delegation, Comrade Bolang Boualapha expressed warm thanks to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference for its warm welcome. He firmly believed that the visit by the LFNC delegation this time would contribute to strengthening the time-honored traditional relations of friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples, thus enabling them to bear more fruit with every passing day.

On 20 July at the (I Quangge-Zhongnanhai) Hall in Beijing, Comrade Wu Xueqian, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and vice premier of the PRC, met and held an intimate and friendly conversation with the LFNC delegation.

In addition, the LFNC delegation also visited Harbin Province, Daqing City, and Dalian Province which are open areas for economic construction in China. Everywhere the delegation visited, it witnessed the growth and strength of China and was accorded fraternal welcome by the people in those areas.

Even though the delegation's visit to the PRC was very short, it was filled with brilliant success, thus contributing to further developing and strengthening the time-honored traditional relations of friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples.

Lao Delegation Returns Home From Burma

BK1408070390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] A delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat arrived in Vientiane capital yesterday, ending its official visit to the Union of Myanmar [Burma] from 5 to 9 August.

During the visit, made at the invitation of the Myanmar government, the delegation and its Myanmar counterpart held consultations and exchanged views in a cordial and sincere atmosphere. The topics of discussion included the appointment of a joint border committee in accordance with the principles stipulated in the Franco-British Declaration on Siam and Northern Portion of the Mekong River.

On the afternoon of 8 August, the delegations of the two countries signed the minutes of their meeting.

Phoun Sipaseut Meets Soviet Delegation 11 Aug

BK1408042090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] Political Bureau and head of the LPRP CC Foreign Relations Board, this morning received a delegation of the Foreign Relations Board of the CPSU Central Committee led by Comrade Glazoumov, vice director of the Indochinese Department of the board. The mission of this Soviet delegation is to inform the LPRP CC of the successes of the 28th CPSU Congress.

During the meeting, Comrade Glazoumov briefed Comrade Phoun Sipaseut on various issues which were brought up for consideration and endorsement during the CPSU congress as well as the future orientation and major tasks of the CPSU and the reelection of Comrade Gorbachev as general secretary of the party. Comrade Phoun Sipaseut and Comrade Glazoumov also discussed the orientation and plans for future cooperation between the two parties.

The Soviet delegation yesterday met with the LPRP CC Foreign Relations Board led by Comrade Thongloun Sisoulit, LPRP CC member and deputy head of the board, and informed it about the outcome of the 28th CPSU Congress.

The delegation of the CPSU Foreign Relations Board will be in Laos until 12 August.

Military Delegation Departs for Thailand 15 Aug

BK1508064190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] In response to an invitation from General Sunthon Khongsomphong, Thai Armed Forces supreme commander, and General Suchinda Khraprayun, Army commander of the Kingdom of Thailand, a high-level military delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of General Staff of the Lao People's Army [LPA], left Vientiane for Bangkok this morning for a four-day official friendship visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

The delegation was seen off at Wattai Airport by Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, deputy minister of national defense and head of the LPA General Political Department; Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Siho Bannavong, vice chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality; and a number of high-ranking officers. Also on hand at the airport was Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos.

Leaders Greet Hungarian Officials on Elections

BK1508043790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Last Sunday, His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic, and His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, separately sent messages of greetings to the newly elected leaders of the Republic of Hungary. The messages were addressed to His Excellency Arpad Goncz, president of the republic, and His Excellency Pal Bozso, president of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary.

In their messages, both his excellency the acting president and his excellency chairman of the SPA expressed warm greetings and best wishes to the newly elected Hungarian leaders. The Lao leaders also wished for the consistent promotion and expansion of the traditional friendly relations, solidarity, and cooperation in many fields between the two countries and two peoples of Laos and Hungary. They also expressed conviction that the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries would become stronger in the interest of peace and for the benefit of the peoples of Laos and Hungary.

National Construction Front Marks Anniversary

BK1408103390 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Vientiane, August 14 (KPL)—A meeting to mark the 40th founding anniversary of the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) was held here yesterday with about 200 LFNC officials, intelligentsia, and intellectuals in Vientiane attending.

Mr. Khamtan Thepbouali, standing member of the LFNC's Central Committee, presented to the audience a report on the LFNC's history dating from 1950, pointing out that during the period of struggle against foreign imperialists and colonialists the LFNC (formerly known as the Lao Patriotic Front) was concerned with uniting people of all strata and minorities in fighting for the national liberation.

As president of the front, acting President Phoumi Vongvichit, on this occasion, highlighted the role of the LFNC, emphasizing its four duties, namely the promotion of national defence and security, the promotion of integrated production, of eucation and public health, and the preservation and improvement of national culture, including the observance of national religion that teaches people to be moral beings.

He called on the LFNC at all levels and people of all strata for the effective development of national fine tradition and patriotism in the interest of fulfilling the four tasks.

Sali Vongkhamsao Reports on Financial Work

Installment Four, Part Two

BK1308153590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Fourth installment of part two of "Report on Financial Work During the Past 15 Years and New Direction and Primary Functions of Financial Work," presented by Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning, and finance, at the first nationwide financial conference in Vientiane on 21 June—read by announcer; for third installment of part two, see page 56 of the 15 August East Asia DAILY REPORT]

[Text] C. The task of balancing the state budget:

We have to fix the fiscal year of our country. The beginning and ending points of the fiscal year can be fixed in accordance with the international year, meaning from 1 January to 31 December. Regarding the balancing of the state budget, attention must paid to various issues, ranging from the adoption of plans to the implementation of those plans following the report on the implementation of the plans.

The annual plans, periodic plans, and daily plans must be worked out on the basis of the budget balancing principle. This means that attention must always be paid to the balance of revenues with expenditures. If revenues exceed expenditures, then unpaid work must be taken into consideration. This means that arrangements must be appropriately and effectively made not to allow a large amount of the budget to remain unspent while there still remain many requisitions to be fulfilled. In the case that requisitions have to be made for work that cannot be delayed, it is necessary to concentrate on turning to the grass roots to boost revenues, control the fulfillment of obligations by various enterprises toward the budget, and force them to fulfill all their remaining obligations to the budget service in a timely manner. If any unit still continues to avoid fulfilling its obligations, then the taxation and financial services are authorized to resort to using all possible measures to collect the money from the unit or deduct money from its account and then give the money to the budget service.

In case the revenues are still not sufficient to serve necessary and urgent requirements, it is imperative to use other measures, such as seeking temporary loans from banks, selling bonds by offering an appropriate rate of interest, or boosting savings deposits in order to raise temporary revenues for the budget service. In the special case in which the budgets and expenditures still cannot be balanced even after all the aforesaid measures are implemented, the state must resort to printing and distributing bank notes to meet expenditure requirements.

In addition, throughout the period of directing the annual budget, it is necessary to always make an effort to maintain a consistent balance. On 31 December—the last day of the fiscal year—it is necessary to review the amount of money received and the amount of money spent in order to see the total revenues, the total expenditures, and the unspent local and central budgets. At the same time, it is necessary to comprehensively examine the additional revenues expected and the expenditures that have yet to be made by the budget service. It is necessary to urgently boost the revenues and settle the unfurnished expenditures by the end of the year.

In the second stage, it is necessary to follow up and audit the account book of that particular year. This stage is called an adjustment stage. After the first two months of the year, meaning on 28 February, another examination must be conducted before determining the amount of remaining revenues that have yet to be received. The unfurnished expenditures are the amount of debts that must be repaid in the year of the implementation of the plan. For this reason, from 1 January to late February, the budget service must simultaneously settle these two issues. This means that the budget service must simultaneously settle the budget for the old year and the budget for the new year. During this period, the budgetary work will be very complicated. Therefore, to firmly and strictly manage the budget, it is necessary for the budget service to set an appropriate timetable and effectively make use of its competence.

D. The division of budget management between the central and local levels:

Through thorough examination, we see that the capability of a district is considered to be merely equivalent to that of a unit which relies on the provincial budget service. Only those districts having a strong economy can rely on their own budgets. However, there are not many districts that can be financially self-reliant. Moreover, the budget management at the district level remains very weak. In view of this, there will be many difficulties if the budget is divided at the district level. For this reason, it is suggested that a district be changed into a calculating unit of the provincial budget service. The management work will then be simple and easy. This will also bring about the centralization of the budget, thus creating favorable conditions for the command, both in the horizontal and vertical directions, of the budget.

The basic contents are to firmly combine the centralization and the unification of command at the central level with the promotion and enhancement of initiatives and rights to mastery of localities in the management of business production and the exploitation of economic potentials in localities in order to expand new revenue sources and retain the existing ones while raising the responsibility of the administrations. Concentration must be placed on correctly and completely managing revenue work in accordance with the centralized and unified policy and in a timely manner. It is also necessary to increase sources of revenues, correctly manage the expenditures in accordance with the unified system and regulations of the entire country in order to guarantee an equality in the entire society.

Regarding the organization for implementation, the central service will implement it under the form of contracts for each year as follows: Authorize local services to be in charge of exploiting all revenue sources in their respective areas; the local services maintain rights to make distributions within the limit of expenditures as approved by the center, for example, the expenditure for the construction of infrastructure, the expenditure for academic execution, and expenditures for other purposes in accordance with the scope of expenditures put forth as a unit by the central service to guarantee equality in the society. Regarding expenditures for national defense and public security maintenance work, it is the responsibility of the central service only.

It is also the central service that is in charge of managing the collection of all export and import taxes. If, after conducting a comprehensive examination of the local revenue sources, by not taking into account the revenues drawn from export and import taxes and the expenditure requirements of localities and by excluding expenditures for national defense and public security work, it is seen that the local budgets remain unbalanced, then the central service must help balance those budgets right from the beginning of the year. If in local budgets, revenues exceed expenditures, then the localities must contribute to the central budget on the basis of the contractual principle. This means that in that particular year, those localities that gain more revenues than expected maintain the right to spend all funds in excess of revenues. If they do not gain enough revenues to meet expenditures, they must reduce their expenditures, because the central service will not support them anymore. If the localities can reduce their expenditures while successfully fulfilling all tasks, then all the revenues they save will belong to them. In the case that the central service puts forth a new policy which results in changing the revenues and expenditures of the local budgets, both the central and local services must recalculate their budgets to settle the matter in a timely manner.

Regarding the finance of enterprises, the financial service of enterprises, or so-called business financial service of various business production units which are attached to various economic sectors, including those enterprise units that receive loans from foreign countries, must genuinely take a self-mastery role in controlling finance. This means that it must take the initiative in seeking revenue sources, protecting and effectively making use of the revenues so that it can expand production, buy necessary materials, sell products at market prices, and fulfill the obligations toward the state. At the same time, the state must guarantee the financial ownership of the enterprises, encourage all Lao citizens who maintain financial competence to take part in business production, and provide capital for various business production companies or enterprises to produce goods which are of key importance to the national economic establishments.

Installment Five, Part Two

BK1408142590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Fifth installment of part two of "Report on Financial Work During the Past 15 Years and New Direction and Primary Functions of Financial Work," presented by Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning, and finance, at the first nationwide financial conference held in Vientiane on 21 June—read by announcer]

[Text] After this conference, leadership-level comrades of all ministries, services, provinces, and municipalities must direct and guide all business production units under their respective management to carry out their tasks in the last six months of 1990 as follows:

Relying on suggestions by the state, they must take inventory and assess all assets and capital of all businesses beginning exactly at 0000 on 1 July 1990. The grass-roots units must conduct the checking not only from account books but from actual counting to find out the causes of any surpluses or shortages of assets and capital.

After that, a solution must be worked out in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance. On the above-mentioned basis, we must conduct an analysis on the efficiency of the utilization of assets and capital and the efficiency of business performance in the first six months of 1990 by comparing them to the same period of 1989.

At the same time, we must analyze the causes that have led to attaining such efficiency and the causes that have led to losses in the utilization of assets and capital in respective units, namely the direction of production, material supply sources, markets for selling products, buying prices of materials and selling prices of products, production costs, and other factors. Detailed measures must be worked out for prompt solution. We must organize production apparatuses and define duties in carrying out production, in selling products, and in contributing revenue to the budget in 1990. At the same time, debts collected in 1989 must be settled in the first six months of 1990. We must review the outcome of performance and efficiency of production as well as the financial status of all business models in accordance with the new mechanism, such as the business relations, partnership, the leasing and selling of business enterprises, and so forth under the close supervision of higher levels—the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. All saw mills in Champassak Province and Vientiane municipality, which have already carried out experimental operations, must draw lessons for future operations. Based on that outcome, new mechanisms must be created to be compatible with each model.

As for the apparatuses and finance cadres, the changing of the old finance mechanism into a new one calls for a renovation in the entire system of finance organization. Therefore, we must carry out the following tasks:

1. We must upgrade the apparatuses of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance in accordance with the spirit of Resolution No. 46 of the Council of Ministers.

2. We must create and upgrade the apparatuses of the taxation and fee service throughout the country to ensure the performance of the roles and duties of that service as stated in Resolution No. 47 of the Council of Ministers. We must urgently establish and improve the system of collecting revenue for the state vertically from the center down to the provincial and district levels. We must combine all the duties in collecting revenues for the state under a single organization, primarily the collection of taxes and fees, so that we can put all sources of revenues under a unified guidance in accordance with the spirit of Resolution No. 47, which includes the clause on the introduction of the implementation of policies and regulations as well as the assessment of the capabilities of each revenue source in each period throughout the country and each locality. After that, plans and measures must be formulated to collect such revenues each year. Efforts must be made to collect taxes in full and in a correct and timely manner in accordance with our policy. At the same time, we must closely follow and study the outcome of our efforts so that we can modify or adopt new policies with regard to the revenue sources of the budgets in a timely manner.

3. We must clearly divide the responsibilities, the scope of rights, and the relations between the organizational systems of all services and technical branches attached to the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Economy and the local administrations at all levels and other ministries.

4. We must set up a money-treasury system under the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance in a similar fashion with the taxation-fee system.

5. We must set up a state insurance system to protect business production and the lives and property of the people.

6. We must set up a national finance inspection committee to be in charge of inspecting and supervising the finance services of the state and of the grass-roots units attached to various levels, services, and economic sectors throughout the country.

7. We must set up a state economic arbitration committee and upgrade the state budget department to have enough strength to become a staff organization for all ministries and services.

8. While carrying out the reasonable reassignment of cadres, we must urgently map out long- and short-term plans to train and upgrade cadres, carry out the transformation of the contingent of cadres to be in specialized fields, and set up the standards, levels, and positions for cadres.

9. Generally speaking, the number of cadres attached to the state apparatuses must be reduced, but it is necessary to increase the number of those cadres attached to the economic management, planning, and finance services. As for certain branches of work, such as the state insurance, the statistics center, and the money-treasury branch, they may be transformed into becoming technical apparatuses functioning under the system of business accounting.

10. A proposal must be submitted to the Council of Ministers to decree a policy to give appropriate assistance to cadres attached to the state revenue collection branches and state budget management cadres to ensure that they will always strive to raise a sense of responsibility, maintain qualifications, and increase attention in upgrading their own specialized qualifications, drawing lessons from each other's work, and honestly and lastingly serving the services of their choices.

Installment Six, Part Two

BK1508105990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Sixth and final installment of part two of "Report on Financial Work During the Past 15 Years and New Direction and Primary Functions of Financial Work," presented by Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning, and finance, at the first nationwide financial conference held in Vientiane on 21 June—read by announcer]

[Text] The contents of all policies, regulations, decrees, and related documents must be in agreement and be strictly enforced to ensure their maximum efficiency. Due to the time limit, we must act expeditiously, but not in haste, to promulgate policies in a rational and practical manner. We must consider the feelings of the people so that our new policies will be practical and free from the old concepts and bureaucratic mechanism. We must expeditiously carry out all undertakings according to their priorities and our abilities, and delay those that are not suitable. We must go to the grass roots and mingle with the people to sound out their views. Based on this line of action, the following are policies and regulations to be promulgated according to priorities:

The policies and regulations which must be promulgated during the third quarter of 1990, from July to September, are those pertaining to the management and utilization of free financial assistance from foreign countries; rights and obligations of economic sectors toward the state budget; amendment of and guidelines for the implementation of Resolution No. 47 of the Council of Ministers; guidelines for the management of funds for infrastructural construction; establishment of financial management apparatuses; a financial management system; establishment of a national auditing and financial inspection organization (an apparatus under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance); roles, duties, and rights of these establishments; salary rates in the business sectors; establishment and utilization of financial reserves and the state reserve; management of state properties; state insurance; [words indistinct] social insurance:

Laws, policies, and regulations which must be promulgated in the last quarter of 1990 and become effective from 1 January 1991 are the Budget Law of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; regulations on budget management systems for the center and localities; the law on expenditures of the technical and administrative sectors, national defense, and public security maintenance; budget accounting and financial reserve regulations; and regulations on roles and duties of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance including the organizational structure of sectors and agencies under the ministry, revenue collection, financial systems, and state budgetary system.

Legislation to be promulgated in 1991 will include regulations governing the regular and express reporting system of financial and budget management sectors; management of state properties and production of economic sectors; and compilation of statistics regarding budget allocations, budgetary and financial conditions, and national finance policy.

In short, it is necessary for all of us from different sectors and localities, especially comrades working in the financial circles, to forge ahead to overcome all obstacles and difficulties to realize the successes of this conference in order to completely convert financial work to the new mechanisms. However, I firmly believe that with your new concepts and attitudes toward financial work as outlined in the speech delivered by the comrade general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers and with our sense of responsibility, we will certainly be able to completely convert the financial work to the new mechanisms and actively contribute to the task of restructuring in our country to attain new achievements to welcome the upcoming 5th party congress and the 15th founding anniversary of the LPDR.

Article Outlines Objectives of National Radio

BK1308020890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Article marking the 30th founding anniversary of the national radio station, entitled "Objectives of the Establishment and the Growth and Development of the National Radio Broadcasting Station"]

[Summary] "The first item read on the broadcasting radio station of the Pathet Lao side was a communique of the Lao Patriotic Front [LPF] on a coup d'etat on 9 August 1960."

In the beginning, the broadcasting format of our radio station—the radio station of the Pathet Lao side—was irregular. Neither fixed programs nor fixed hours were determined.

"The contents of our programs on the revolutionary mobilization at that time were in accordance with the policy of the LPF Central Committee. We strived to create unity among the multiethnic people of Laos and between the LPF and the then Patriotic Neutralist Forces and to foster the spirit of heroic struggle against the imperialists and traitorous reactionaries. We mobilized the people to fight for the survival of the second coalition government in 1962 after the enemy trampled the Geneva Accord and destroyed the tripartite government."

We condemned the bombings by the imperialists against our people in 1962 and were determined to turn the liberated zone into a state, to encourage the people to implement the resolutions adopted at the second party congress, and to ardently contribute to the defeat of the intensified special war waged by the imperialists.

After the cease-fire took effect in 1973, our radio station turned to serve the policy of the provisional national coalition government. At the same time, we mobilized the people to stage an uprising to seize administrative power throughout the country without bloodshed. Our efforts bore fruit in late 1975.

"Throughout the national-democratic revolution, especially between the founding of our radio station on 13 August 1960 and late 1975, all news items and articles prepared by our editorial staff and broadcast on our programs largely reflected the political policy of our party, the reality of the struggle between our side and the enemy, and the aspirations of the entire Lao people. Our radio station rightfully became a sharp tool of our people's struggle, a reliable outlet of our party, and a forger of the spirit of patriotism and revolution for the entire Lao people."

In addition, our radio station also effectively served the party's political duty, such as by publicizing the various resolutions adopted at the third and fourth party congresses and the first and second socioeconomic plans of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and brilliantly served the party's two strategic tasks of defending the country and building the new regime.

"During the current period of restructuring, our national radio station has acted as a link between the party, state, and people. The contents of our broadcasts have also changed. This means that we have concentrated on reflecting the two sides of the country—to publicize the party's policies, lines, and resolutions and the state's plans and to report on public opinion, achievements of the people, and the reality in each locality to the party and state—so that they will be able to modify their policies, lines, and plans accordingly. At the same time, we have also paid close attention to reporting on foreign news."

We receive an estimated 20,000 letters from our listeners each year. This means that thanks to improvement in the contents of our programs, we are able to more effectively educate and attract the attention of our audience.

Philippines

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Iraq Said Helping in Evacuation

HK1308112790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Manuel Yan today clarified that the Iraqi government was helping the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad in the evacuation of Filipino workers there.

Tanny Rodriguez for the details.

[Begin recording] This followed reports that Iraq has closed its border with Saudi Arabia to Filipinos and other foreigners stranded in Kuwait and Iraq when Iraq invaded Kuwait last week. Yan issued the statement to reporters at Malacanang after making a report to the president.

He said that following contacts with Iraqi officials by the Overseas Workers Welfare Authority, the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, and the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad, the Iraqi government even provided 25 buses and camels for use by Filipinos in travelling to Amman, Jordan.

The foreign affairs undersecretary also explained some issues being resolved by the Philippine Government since the decision was made to evacuate Filipino workers from Kuwait and Iraq. [end recording]

Energy Conservation Directive

HK1408022790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Aug 90 pp 1, 18

[By Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] President Aquino ordered government agencies and private companies yesterday to effect a five percent cutback in fuel consumption and a 10 percent reduction in electricity usage. The President also directed the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to adopt reasonable measures restricting the use of motor vehicles during peak hours and during Sundays and holidays.

Mrs. Aquino's directives were spelled out in Executive Order No. 418 which mandates the immediate implementation of an energy conservation program in the wake of the oil supply-price crunch in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mrs. Aquino also created a contingency planning committee to deal with the present oil supply situation, with Director-General Cayetano Paderanga of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as head.

She stressed that both government and the private sector must cooperate in the energy conservation program to help cushion the effects of increasing oil prices and avoid fuel supply disruption. She said that all departments, offices, government corporations, and local government units should reduce their petroleum consumption by five percent and their electricity usage by 10 percent. She ordered them to report on their compliance every month.

The President ordered that government vehicles be used only for official business and that trip tickets must be displayed on the vehicle.

Mrs. Aquino directed the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Office of Energy Affairs to develop voluntary energy conservation programs for trade and industry associations.

She said that the Office of Energy Affairs will require industrial, commercial, and transport establishments consuming annually more than one million liters of fuel oil to submit an emergency conservation program targetting a five percent cutback in fuel consumption and 10 percent reduction in electricity usage. Quarterly compliance reports will be required, she added.

Likewise, she said that the use of neon and electric lights for advertisements will be allowed only from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Mrs. Aquino added that the energy conservation campaign will be extended to the residential sector, supermarkets, departments stores, and movie houses.

She also directed the Department of National Defense (DND) to strictly enforce the prohibition against speed contests of motor vehicles, watercraft and aircraft.

She ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to strictly enforce the anti-smoke belching law.

The President issued Administrative Order No. 191 creating the contingency planning committee for the present oil supply situation. Aside from Paderanga, appointed as members were Trade Secretary Jose S. Concepcion Jr., Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague, Transportation Secretary Oscar Orbos, Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani and Executive Director Wenceslao de la Paz of the Office of Energy Affairs.

Mrs.. Aquino said that the committee will formulate contingency plans and guidelines for sectoral responses to the present oil supply situation.

De Villa on Oil Price Rises

HK1508095790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Renato S. de Villa said yesterday that enemies of the government might exploit oil price increases which are expected to be introduced because of the Gulf crisis. But De Villa said troops were alert against any attempt of destabilization by rightwing rebel soldiers, communist guerillas or Muslim separatists.

"The situation now is dynamic," he said at the weekly Kapihan [coffeeshop] forum at the Manila Hotel. "A mere one peso increase in oil can create a situation that may be exploited by those who are constantly trying to put down this government."

Rebel soldiers who almost toppled President Aquino in a coup attempt last December have vowed to remove her from power before her term expires in 1992.

De Villa also said that the military has no capability to bring home all stranded Filipinos in the Middle East who were caught in the Gulf crisis. "The most we can send there is a couple of C-130 aircraft...the others are not fitted enough or capable enough to be deployed there," he said.

De Villa said that while he agreed to a massive evacuation of Filipino workers from the Middle East, the navy, however, has no ships that can travel all the way to the Gulf to ferry them.

The two C-130s, he said, can airlift almost 300 people and that he is just awaiting orders for such operation. The most that the government can do is to tap private carriers.

On the use of the military bases as staging area for attack in the Gulf, De Villa said this will need Philippine government's permit.

Senate Opposes Use of Bases

HK1408025390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Aug 90 p 8

[By staff member Patrick Paez]

[Text] Senators yesterday expressed strong opposition against the use of the U.S. bases here as a staging ground for American military action against Iraq. Senate President Jovito Salonga said the Philippines has to support UN sanctions against Baghdad, but that the involvement of Clark and Subic was an "entirely different matter."

Senators John Osmena and Ernesto Herrera feared that the use of the U.S. military bases for intervention in the

Middle East conflict could endanger the safety of over 50,000 Filipino overseas contract workers trapped in Kuwait.

Osmena said the cost of involving the bases would be gambling with lives of Filipinos caught in the unfolding conflict. "There are more Filipinos living (in Kuwait) than there are American soldiers in Saudi," he said.

The two senators said the Government should instead pursue "diplomatic initiatives" with Iraq to ensure the safe return of the workers.

Herrera, chairman of the Senate labor committee, said the bases could be used "as a staging ground for evacuation...not for military intervention."

Sen. Leticia Shahani, chairman of the foreign relations committee, said that "our interests do not exactly coincide with that that of a superpower like the U.S."

Herrera said he talked with the President over the weekend and told her that she faces widespread protests if the Saudi Arabian government fails to evacuate the contract workers. He expressed outrage over the alleged plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] to close down the Philippine embassy in Kuwait, leaving behind Filipino workers who had been streaming into the Saudi Arabian border since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The closure of the embassy has apparently been shelved for now, but the DFA, Herrera said, has made little effort to contact the embassy in Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Ramos Explains Not Joining Force

HK1408112190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Philippines cannot join forces with a worldwide movement to form a multinational military force in the Middle East. This was announced by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos in his meeting with visiting U.S. Senator Richard Lugar.

Ramos explained that at present, the Armed Forces of the Philippines was very much preoccuppied with solving the insurgency problem in addition to threats posed by rightist groups against the democratic government prevailing in the country.

Nevertheless, Ramos said that the Philippines was complying with the economic sanctions outlined in a resolution approved by the United Nations against Iraq.

Salonga Against Support for U.S.

HK1508023390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0120 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Report by Jojo Ysmael from the Philippine Senate—live]

[Text] The Senate president announced today that it does not agree with any suggestions for the Philippines to support any military moves by the United States in the Middle East. According to Senate President Jovito Salonga, the Philippines cannot afford to be at odds with Iraq owing to the presence of thousands of Filipino workers who are currently in Bahgdad, Iraq and Kuwait.

This pronouncement by Salonga was made as a reaction to the announcement made by Senator Richard Lugar who is currently in Manila. Lugar said yesterday that U.S. President Bush was asking the Philippine Government to support the United States' moves against Iraq.

Meanwhile, for her part, Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, called on the country's leaders and officials to study intently the current crisis in the Middle East before it takes any formal action. Prior to this, the Senator also mentioned that the rift between Iraq and Kuwait and the intervention of the United States in the Gulf could possibly affect forthcoming negotiations between the Philippines and the U.S. in relation to the bases agreement which is due to expire by 16 September 1991.

On the contrary, Lugar stressed that the bases in the country would not meddle in any plans the U.S. had in the Gulf.

In relation to this, Senator Mamintal Tamano, a Muslim legislator from Mindanao, said that the Philippines should not be one of the forerunners in any plans against Iraq. Tamano mentioned that although the country must not first recognize the de-facto government currently ruling in Kuwait, he also said that the Philippines must not reject announcements from Kuwait [as heard].

Noninterference Reiterated

HK1508122490 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III asserted that there was really no need to seek direct assistance from the United Nations in the planned evacuation of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Philippines maintains its position of noninterference in the Gulf crisis owing to its concern for the safety and employment of thousands and thousands of Filipinos in the area. The Philippines has reportedly not implemented a trade embargo against Iraq, although it has temporarily suspended the transport of goods to that country.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III also said that the Philippines has not made any move to sever its official ties with Iraq.

[Begin recording in English in progress] [Gomez] ...Secretary Manglapus has indicated: This is not the first time that it has happened. It has happened before and since we are abiding by the decision or the resolution passed by the United Nations, we... the recourse that we have is to play within the rules of the United Nations, through the system. As Secretary Manglapus said, we are not asking for an exemption. We are asking for some assistance because we may be encountering certain difficulties with regard to the interests of our nationals who are still kept in the Gulf areas.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] I do not think because the reaction to that, better yet, whereby we have to seek assistance from the United Nations because we are still abiding by the decisions that have been taken. [senetence as heard] I guess the most important assistance that we will be needing really is to encourage our nationals who are trapped there, to ensure that they are evacuated when need be. And aside from the United Nations, we will also have recourse through National Red Cross organizations.

[Reporter] Sir, how many Philippine nationals are still in the area?

[Gomez] I think you will have to ask the Department of Labor. We don't have the statistics here. Or perhaps the POEA [Philippine Overseas Employment Authority]—they have the registry.

[Reporter] Sir, Secretary Manglapus said that under the agreement, the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Bases Agreement, our bases are not allowed to be used for combat. Is that correct?

[Gomez] That is correct.

[Reporter] But as in the past and in the present, it will only be used for refuelling.

[Gomez] Well, yes, this has been used for refuelling.

[Reporter] And ...

[Gomez] I think the spirit of the military bases agreement is that military use of the bases may have to depend on consent, consultation and consent.

[Reporter] And there has been no consultation?

[Gomez] Obviously none because there is no intent to utilize it for military purposes.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] Well, that is the reason why I think that they appointed some 30 deputy prime ministers in charge of [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] Well, I guess there is in fact a de facto (recognition) because the government has been overtaken by Iraq. But you know this closure of embassies is a difficult situation. And I am sure that even Iraq itself will seek some ways upon which to be able to service the requirements of the nationals that are kept in their respective embassies. As you know, the Philippines is only a small group compared to the tens of thousands of Pakistanis, Indians, and Bangladeshi who are there. And certainly, in pursuing the national interests of these nationals there, the Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladesh diplomatic missions there will not just abandon their nationals.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] Well, actually, for all practical purposes, we have not done anything by way of withdrawing recognition.

[Reporter] What other factors are the executive proposing to [words indistinct]?

[Gomez] What do not you mean by United Nations resolution?

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] We are participating in the embargo. We are participating in the spirit of the United Nations sanctions. I guess it will depend on what the United Nations would ask of the Philippines specifically and at which time, we will say whether we can deliver or not.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] Of course, Iraq is hurt by this United Nations that they have to respect that the Philippines is a member of the United Nations, as well as all the other countries all over the world who are beholden to follow the decision of the association to which they belong.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gomez] I don't know if theoretically as you said, the United Nations has the power over that kind of a situation. [end recording]

That was Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III.

Diplomats To Seek Accreditation

HK1508030590 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 15 Aug 90 p 12

[Text] In the interest of overseeing the welfare of Filipino nationals in Kuwait, the Philippine diplomats there will go to Baghdad to secure accreditation, foreign affairs officials yesterday said. "Our people in Kuwait will go to Baghdad to get accreditation and then go back to Kuwait ... to service and assist our workers because if they don't do that ... they wouldn't have any status in Kuwait," DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] Undersecretary Manuel Yan said.

"This is disappointing," a U.S. Embassy official told BUSINESS WORLD. "That is in effect recognizing the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq." The U.S. mission in Kuwait would do no such thing, he said.

"These Embassies—the U.S. and the UK—that say they are standing pat, they don't have the number of workers we have there," Mr Yan remarked.

"Our paramount objective, in all our moves there, is the protection of our nationals. Whatever will permit us to continue protecting our nationals, that we will have to do," Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus responded when asked about the DFA move.

"Gusto ninyo ng "independent foreign policy'—ayan, salungat sa buong UN (You wanted an independent foreign policy—here it is, it's even independent of the UN)!" a junior Filipino diplomat commented.

Aquino Approves Evacuation Airlift

HK1508045790 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] President Aquino has approved the airlift by Philippine Air Force planes of stranded Filipino overseas workers in the Middle East. Air Force spokesman Colonel Avelino Abriol said: Oplan Balik Labay [Operation Return Flight] will involve two Air Force C130 cargo planes which will carry Filipino evacuees between Amman, Jordan and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Defense and military top brass had earlier opposed the use of military air transport as these may be mistaken as hostile planes and attacked by Iraqi forces.

Colonel Abriol said Oplan Balik Labay is made up of eight experienced Air Force pilots and 11 crew members headed by the 220th heavy airlift wing commander Brigadier General Cesar Go.

Meantime, the government of Iraq has assured that it will allow Philippine nationals to leave Kuwait through Jordan. The assurance was made by Consul General of the Iraqi Embassy (Narwafal al-Ani).

[Begin al-Ani recording] We have allowed the Filipino workers to go out of the country through Jordan. If they want to stay, they are welcome and our forces will be securing them. If they want to go out, they are free to do so. So, there is no harm. There is no misbehavior against any foreigner in our country. [end recording]

Air Force Evacuation Cancelled

HK1508124790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The government has cancelled its plan to send Philippine Air Force C-130 airplanes to the Middle East. The plan to send the planes was aimed at evacuating the Filipino contract workers who were caught in the conflict. The statement was issued by the Department of Labor and Employment. Here is Jojo Ismael with the details and a brief statement from Labor Undersecretary Confessor:

[Begin recording] [Ismael] In her appearance today before the Senate, Labor Undersecretary Nieves Roldan Confessor said the government had cancelled the plan to send Philippine Air Force [PAF] planes to Jordan following a report stating that no military planes are allowed to fly to any critical location in the Middle East. According to Confessor, Philippine Airlines [PAL] would have to increase commercial flights to transport workers back to the country. The labor official also mentioned that the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is currently conducting negotiations with shipping companies concerning using ships in evacuating the workers.

[Confessor, in English] We are now... (changes thought) the plans that we had last week are now being operationalized. So, we're using PAL. We're looking into using the PAF C-130s but we are being requested, we are being asked, not to send them in because these are military planes and might be quite dangerous.

And now we are also working out an arrangement with some shipping companies because if we take some more, about another 2,000 in the next two weeks, if this present trend continues there could be no planes, or the use of air especially by airlines could be a little too expensive. And we will need a ship. We have identified four which are safe and, right now, what is happening is we're identifying vessels that are already in the area that can bring them to Manila. We are told that within seven days we should be getting (the workers). [end recording]

Embassy in Kuwait Retained

HK1608113790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Aug 90

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today said that the Iraqi government in Baghdad agreed to retain the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait to look after the welfare of thousands of Filipino workers stranded in Kuwait. Manglapus said that the Iraqi Government has also lifted the 24 August deadline for the Philippine Embassy's stay in Kuwait extending it to such time that all Filipinos who wish to return to the Philippines are evacuated. According to Manglapus there are now a total of 5,000 Filipino contract workers in the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait waiting for an opportunity to leave the troubled country.

Meanwhile, Manglapus stated that the Philippines is hoping for U.S. assistance in supplying food and medicine for foreigners stranded in Kuwait, adding that the Philippine Government will reimburse whatever amount the U.S. may spend in helping the Filipinos. Manglapus said that some 10,000 Filipino contract workers in Kuwait have already been issued with passports, but did not comment on the remaining 40,000 Filipino workers in that country. The number of Filipinos in Kuwait according to a figure released by the Department of Foreign Affairs is estimated to be in the region of 40,000 to 60,000.

Earlier today, Manglapus spoke to Iraqi Ambassador 'Ali Sumaydah and discussed alternative measures in evacuating Filipinos from Kuwait. The Philippines is considering sending ships to the Middle East to evacuate Filipinos, Manglapus said. He stressed that the Philippines is cautious about getting involved in the Middle

East military situation and that it had also cancelled the plan to send a military (task force) to evacuate the Filipinos.

Meanwhile, contrary to the Overseas Welfare Administration report confirming the rape of two Filipinas by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait, Manglapus said the rape reports were baseless and not true. Until the Department of Foregin Affairs has taken full details of the alleged abuse he said, it is not right to approach the Iraqi Embassy in Manila with relation to the incident.

Students Rally at U.S. Embassy

HK1608100990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Aug 90

[By Vic Pambuan]

[Text] About 200 Palestinian, Jordanian, Iraqi, and Iranian students held a rally in front of the U.S. Embassy at 1300 until 1400 today. Headed by a Palestinian student, (Khalid Aduan), the rally was aimed at sending a message to the U.S. Government to withdraw its forces from the Middle East, particularly in Kuwait, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, and lift the economic sanctions against these places. [sentence as heard] The Arab students stressed that the United States could not resolve the Iraq-Kuwait crisis through arms, adding that no one could solve the Iraq-Kuwait conflict but the Arabs themselves because of their tradition which the Western countries did not realize. After delivering their statements, which lasted 30 minutes, the students voluntarily dispersed and left the U.S. Embassy.

Government Initiates Plan for Bases Conversion

HK1508095590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Aug 90 p 25

[By E. Tolentino]

[Text] The government has initiated plans to take over and convert into productive uses military reservations, particularly the Clark Air Base and Subic naval installations in Olongapo, in anticipation of the termination of military bases agreement between the United States and the Philippines.

Draft bills seeking the creation of the P [Peso]50-billion capitalized "Military Reservations Conversion Authoritiy" (MRCA) are being prepared for final deliberation by the Aquino Cabinet this week. The final version of the draft bills will be endorsed to both the Senate [and] the House of Representatives for passage into law.

It is expected that the proposed administration bill creating the MRCA will enjoy smooth sailing in the Senate, where majority of the members are against the continued stay here of the U.S. bases.

"The House will be another story," administration officials said in apparent reference to the adversarial stance taken against the Aquino administration by the controlling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] in the wake of the launching of the President's political movement—the Kabisig [Partnership]. "Besides, a big group of congressmen is perceived to favor the extension of stay of the American military bases in exchange for an increase in the annual rent," it was noted.

MRCA is envisioned to operate with corporate powers and its affairs and operations to be supervised by a 15-man board of directors dominated by 10 government representatives and five from the private sector.

The 10 board members of the authority from the government shall come from these departments: agriculture; economic planning; environmental and natural resources; foreign affairs; justice; national defense; public works and highways; trade and industry, and transportation and communications, plus an appointee to serve as president of the MRCA.

Among the major purposes of the authority are the following:

—Own and administer Clark and Subic military reservations that may be transferred to it by the President;
—Prepare a development plan for the conversion into productive uses of the various military reservations (in accordance with the broad framework worked out by the Legislative Executive Bases Council);
—Implement "conversion projects" approved by the President;
—Encourage the active participation of the private sector in transforming the military reservations into productive uses including the establishment of "semi-autonomous" economic zones in said areas.

Military Assures Senate of No Coup Attempt

HK1508095990 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The military yesterday assured the Senate oversight committee on intelligence that rebel soldiers have no capability to destabilize the government despite the impending crisis brought about by the Middle East conflict.

In a brief statement issued after the closed-door briefing, committee chairman Sen. Mamintal Tamano [Nationalist Party] said the military appears to be on top of the situation and no indications show that the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] and the Young Officers Union [YOU] have already organized its forces to launch another coup d'etat.

"The Armed Forces feel that they are on top of the situation. They said there is no possibility of a coup at present," Tamano said.

National Intelligence Coordinating Agency chief (ret.) Gen. Ramon Gavino Jr., Intelligence Service of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] head Col. Carlos

Tanena and AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence Brig. Gen. Alfredo Filler were among those who briefed the senators.

Earlier in the day, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa told reporters at the Kapihan sa Manila [Manila Coffeeshop] that if the situation further deteriorates "and the people will be subjected to a very hard life, there are implications to national security in that sense." De Villa, however, belittled the capability of rebel soldiers to launch another military takeover.

Rightist Rebels Blamed for 14 Aug Bombings

HK1508123990 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 15 Aug 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Capital Region Command chief Brigadier General Marino Filart today said that last nights bombings were perpetrated by rightist rebels. According to Filart, the bombs used were C-4 or plastic bomb types which are only available from military sources. Filart added that the target of the bomb attack was a government office, the Department of Trade and Industry, and signifies a message against the government:

[Begin unidentified recording in English] During the series, again, of bombings in Makati, ah when was that, last month, we feel that the indications are stronger to be from the rightists. [end recording]

Ramos Allays Fears of Alleged Military Uprising

HK1608102990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Aug 90

[By Vic Pambuan]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos reiterated his call on the public not to worry or panic about reports of a military uprising aimed at overthrowing the present administration.

In a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo, Ramos stressed that rebel soldiers have no more capability to fight for their objectives and that they will never succeed. Secretary Ramos' statement came following a series of bombings which targetted the Board of Investments and the Department of Trade and Industry and which were allegedly perpetrated by rightists to terrorize the public and to signify that they still have the ability to fight the government. However, Ramos said the whole military force is ready to defend or prevent whatever plans the rebel soldiers may carry out.

In this regard, Ramos appealed to the public to unite with the government and report to authorities any imminent action the rightists or the leftists may launch, to prevent them from overthrowing the government. Ramos said the enemies of the present administration may exploit the situation in relation to the Iraq- Kuwait conflict and may launch terrorist activities in the country.

Meanwhile, Secretary Ramos announced that members of the military and Integrated National Police involved in crimes will no longer face courts-martial. Instead, they will be tried by civilian courts because their offenses are not service connected and it is only right that they be tried by a civilian court as stipulated under the revised Penal Code. Here is part of Secretary Ramos' statement:

[Begin Ramos recording in English—in progress] ...seven months report with regard to the waivers of jurisdiction that have been recommended by the department to the president so that the military and police personnel concerned can be tried, not by court martial, but by the civilian courts, because their offences are not service connected and should be tried under the revised Penal Code. [end recording]

Honasan Letter Renews Cease-Fire Offer

HK1408025190 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 Aug 90 p 10

[Text] Members of the Rebolusyonaryong alyansang Makabansa/Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance/Soldiers of the Filipino People] (RAM/KSP) yesterday renewed calls for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue.

In a letter signed by renegade ex-Col. [Colonel] Gregorio Honasan and sent to media organizations via the facsimile machine, the RAM/KSP called for talks "to enable the nation to rebuild in peace and confront the challenges of our common survival caused by unforseen events from within and without."

The rebel group said, "The nation is in deep crisis and the RAM/KSP does not wish to aggravate the sufferings of our people and the future hardships they have to face by engaging this Administration in a life or death struggle, if this can be avoided."

It added that "the national crisis with its own priority and logic has provided the golden opportunity for all contending parties to subordinate their cause for the national interest."

Suspected NPA Leader, Two Others Arrested

HK1408025590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Aug 90 p 14

[By Bert Padilla]

[Text] Hagonoy, Bulacan—A suspected NPA [New People's Army] leader and two women were nabbed by combined group of PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police], CAFGU [Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit], and rebel returnees in a safe house in barangay San Juan, here early Monday morning.

Those captured were identified in the report to Lt. Col. Efren Q. Fernandez, Bulacan PC-INP chief, by police Lt. [Lieutenant] Arturo Legaspi, Hagonoy station commander, as Pablo Lyan, alias "Billy Chaw," alleged team leader of the off-shore guerrilla unit; Mercedes Buenceso, 42, alias "Ka [Comrade] Adel," and Maria Acuna, 56, alias "Mother Lily," members of the medical team, all of barangay Mercado, this town.

Recovered from Chaw were a .45 caliber pistol, two magazines, 20 bullets, and documents. They were nabbed in the house of one Isidro Carpio, a widower.

Fernandez reported that Chaw was linked by Paombong INP chief Lt. Carlito Feliciano to the killing of three CAFGU men and one civilian who were ambushed last June 17, while patrolling Binacud river in this town.

The rebel leader reportedly set free 1.8 million worth of milkfish owned by Paombong Mayor Rufino Valencia at the height of December, 1989 coup and also hijacked a bancaload of milkfish, also owned by the mayor, worth P [peso]85,000 in Malolos.

Lt. Feliciano alleged that the group of Chaw was getting P2 million yearly from fishpond owners and traders in Paombong as "revolutionary tax."

Coup-Linked Officer Recaptured After Escape

HK1308135590 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 13 Aug 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] An army officer who escaped from detention last July was recaptured yesterday. He is First Lieutenant George Bacani who was allegedly involved in the aborted December coup attempt and was found in his hiding place in Lubang, Laguna. He is now back in his old detention cell in Fort Bonifacio.

Renegade Colonel Declares War on Government

HK1508123190 Quezon City MALAYA in English 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 7

[By Froilan Gallardo]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—Renegade Col. Alexander Noble, who has gone into hiding in the hinterlands of Agusan del Sur since the December coup was crushed, Tuesday declared war against the government and vowed to "liberate" Mindanao. Noble issued the statement as three batallions of government soldiers Sunday started attacking his stronghold in the mountain village of Salog. A Marine was injured during the initial clash.

An Army soldier, 2 Lt. [Lieutenant] Joselito Tucaldo of the 8th Infantry Batallion, was reported wounded Monday when government troops continued their offensive against Noble.

(In Manila, the Army announced the capture of a rebel Army lieutenant in Lumban, Laguna. 2 Lt. George Bacani, who was linked to the failed December coup, escaped last June 6 from the Fort Bonifacio detention center.)

Noble called the military demand for him to surrender as unreasonable, saying the government has not even filed rebellion charges against him except to mark him AWOL.

The government Tuesday broke off negotiations for the renegade colonel's surrender. Noble said he had presented to government negotiators a package of "peaceful measures" of the Free Mindanao Movement. He said, however, the military offensive forced him and his men to take up arms.

Noble said the offensive was "an intrusion to the peaceable nature and territory of the Huigaunon tribe" which has bestowed on him the royal title of datu. The tribesmen make up the bulk of his fighters.

Communist Party Education Official Captured

HK1408122790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] A high-ranking official of the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] was captured this morning by Constabulary authorities. The suspect was identified as Vicente Ladlad. Ladlad carries a 500,000 peso reward for his capture.

Here is a report by Brigadier General Gerardo Flores, chief of staff of the PC [Philippine Constabulary] in an interview with Radyo ng Bayan.

[Begin Flores recording in English] Major General Cesar Nazareno announced today, through me, the chief of staff, the capture of another top ranking leader of the CPP-NPA who was nabbed early this morning in Quezon City.

PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] intelligence identified the leader as Vicente Ladlad (Ilifortadez) alias Ricky, secretary of the National Education Department or NED of the CPP-NPA. The NED is a major organ of the communist movement that is in charge of education and training.

Mr. Ladlad is carrying a reward of 500,000 pesos based on the Department of National Defense order number Alpha-093 dated 21 July 1989. [end recording]

Thailand

Further Coverage of Middle East Situation

Praphat on Workers Evacuation

BK1508144190 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan, who is now in Saudi Arabia, has confirmed that there is no immediate need to evacuate Thai workers at this time.

[Begin recording] [Praphat] With the cooperation of the employing firms and the Saudi Government, the workers are still able to help themselves.

[Reporter] Are you confident that immediate coordination to help them is still possible in case an emergency situation should arise?

[Praphat] It is certain that immediate coordination with the proper officials is possible because the workers have been given advice on what to do. For this reason and because of consultation with officials here and officials of ASEAN and certain friendly countries, it has been concluded with confidence that the current situation is not serious enough to warrant the evacuation of workers. [end recording]

Summing up his visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Iran, and Saudi Arabia, the deputy foreign minister said he has reached the conclusion that the situation is not serious. If an emergency arises, there is coordination among workers, employers, and Saudi agencies. It is anticipated that if evacuation is warranted, workers will first be moved from the border to Jeddah, which is far from where the enemy soldiers are confronting each other. If the situation becomes more serious, they will be moved to Egypt or Sudan; this plan has already been coordinated with the parties concerned.

Today, the deputy foreign minister met with his Saudi counterpart to discuss the issue of the workers and will later meet with ASEAN consul generals on the same matter.

Center in Amman Planned

BK1608013990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Thailand will set up an evacuation centre in Amman, Jordan's capital, to facilitate the repatriation of about 10,000 Thai workers from Kuwait and Iraq after getting the "green light" from the Iraqi government.

Government spokesman Suwit Yotmani said that the just-set-up committee for evacuation of Thai workers agreed yesterday that the establishment of the office in Jordan was crucial for the evacuation plan because of the lack of communications channels now between Thailand and the Gulf states. Suwit said the Labour Department would dispatch staff to Amman to help the Thai embassy staff in Jordan handle the transit centre for Thai workers being repatriated. There are about 7,000 Thai workers in Kuwait and 3,000 in Iraq.

But Thai workers in the northern part of Saudi Arabia, who are being threatened by the prospect of war spreading across the Kuwaiti border, might have to be evacuated too, he said. Thousands of Thai workers are working in oil fields and construction sites near the Kuwait-Saudi border.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Somphong Faichampa said the Iraqi government has agreed to allow 10,000 Thai workers trapped in Kuwait and Iraq to leave those countries via an overland route through Jordan.

Iraq, which is barring western foreigners from leaving Iraq and Kuwait, agreed to let the Thai nationals leave on condition that they depart through Jordan, he said, adding that Jordan was now the only safe route for conducting an evacuation. Iraq, which has occupied Kuwait since invading the Gulf state on Aug 2, made the agreement after several meetings in Baghdad between senior Iraqi officials and the Thai ambassador, Somphong said.

Ambassador Choei Sutrong told Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz that Thailand was concerned that imminent food shortages in Kuwait and Iraq and the possible escalation of hostilities in the Gulf would jeopardize the safety and welfare of Thai workers, the spokesman said.

Somphong said food shortages are slowly being felt at the Thai Embassy in Kuwait, where rationing of food and drinking water has begun for about 200 Thai woman workers taking refuge in the embassy compound. Diplomats, other staff, Thai Airways International personnel, and their families are all currently living at the embassy.

Saudi Pledge Cited

BK1608014190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] Jeddah—Saudi Arabia yesterday assured Thailand it is capable of protecting foreign workers—including an estimated 150,000 Thais—from any Iraqi attack. Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Mansuri gave this assurance when he met the Thai delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan in Jeddah yesterday.

Sources in the Thai delegation quoted Minister al-Mansuri as telling Mr Praphat there is no cause for concern or need to prepare for a mass evacuation of Thai workers from Saudi Arabia as a result of the Middle East crisis.

Minister al-Mansuri said Saudi Arabia is confident of defending itself. The situation inside Saudi Arabia is calm and he asked Mr Praphat to advise Thai workers not to panic.

Minister Praphat is scheduled to meet Thai workers in Jeddah today and will fly to the eastern city of Dhahran tomorrow to meet more Thais.

The Saudi Arabian Government considers its responsibility to provide protection for all foreign nationals, Minister al-Mansuri said. He said international forces, particularly those of the United States, are in Saudi Arabia and are in a position to defend the country from any Iraqi attack, even against sophisticated missiles.

The Saudi minister said he does not think Iraq will launch an invasion of Saudi Arabia. At worst, the minister said, Iraq may choose to strike at Saudi oil facilities if it feels cornered. The sources quoted Minister al-Mansuri as saying that Iraq could attack oil facilities because this would be striking at the "vital interests" of the West.

The Saudi minister said workers in these oil installations could be in some danger, but the Saudi Government has taken adequate measures to protect the oil fields.

Minister al-Mansuri said measures have been prepared for a chemical weapons attack.

The minister is concerned about reports from various countries with a large workforce in his country that they are preparing mass evacuation plans. Minister al-Mansuri said there would be considerable logistical problems if each country decides to evacuate its workers from the country.

The sources said ASEAN consuls-general in Jeddah met yesterday to discuss the Middle East situation and agreed it is better to work out a coordinated evacuation plan should the situation warrant it. The consuls-general agreed there would be confusion if each country tries to go ahead with its own plans, adding it is better to work out designated exit points for workers if this becomes necessary. The consuls-general also agreed international aid agencies, such as the International Red Cross, should be responsible for any evacuation process. They also agreed the situation in Saudi Arabia does not warrant an evacuation, adding a mass evacuation would be a major exercise taking a long time to implement.

The Philippines, for instance, would have to fly in one plane a day for a month if it wants to evacuate all its workers from Saudi Arabia.

Minister al-Mansuri told Minister Praphat his country has already consulted other OPEC countries to increase crude oil production and could make up for the loss of output of Iraq and Kuwait. Saudi Arabia is capable of increasing crude oil output from 5.3 million barrels per day to 12.5 million barrels per day. The minister also indicated his country would be willing to meet the crude oil needs of Thailand, which it regards as a friendly nation, and appreciates the Thai gesture of support.

Asked his assessment of King Husayn of Jordan's visit to the United States and his impending meeting with US President George Bush, Minister al-Mansuri said he does not think the visit will achieve a meaningful breakthrough in the crisis.

King Husayn is scheduled to meet President Bush and is reportedly bringing with him a personal message from Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn. Minister al-Mansuri said he thinks the Iraqi leader is trying to stall for time so that he can consolidate his position.

Economic sanctions against Iraq will continue to work only if its neighbours—Jordan and Iran—agree to implement them. If these two countries do not cooperate with sanctions, supplies will flow into Iraq.

The sources said Minister Praphat asked about the situation in Kuwait and was told the situation appeared better than in Iraq itself.

Minister al-Mansuri said Iraq appears to be trying to maintain the pre-invasion status quo inside Kuwait and is giving people everything they had enjoyed before, including food and water. The minister said it appears there will be sufficient food in Kuwait for some time.

Paper on Foreigners in Iraq

BK1608020190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Welcome First Move by Baghdad"]

[Text] Since the Iraqi army bullied its way into Kuwait on August 2, the fate of tens of thousands of innocents has hung in the balance. The huge foreign communities in Kuwait and Iraq have been barred from leaving either nation. A few have escaped, most with tales of mistreatment and brutality by Iraqi soldiers, most commonly against foreign women. Thai, Filipino and European women reportedly have been raped by Iraqi occupiers of Kuwait. So far, not all such reports have been verified, but this too can only be laid at Baghdad's doorstep. In short, even if some of the stories of violence prove exaggerated, the fact is Iraq's actions towards foreigners since the invasion have been deplorable.

Now, almost two weeks after the occupation, the Iraqi regime may be reconsidering its recent actions. Although details still are unclear, the happy news that Thailand's ambassador to Iraq, Mr Choei Sutrong, has succeeded in winning speedy repatriation of captive Thais is welcome indeed. Most of the estimated 7,000 Thais in Kuwait are honest, hard-working contract employees. They are citizens of a nation that never has threatened Iraq, and is geographically removed from the seemingly never-ending Middle East conflicts. Our countrymen have been denied contact by mail or telecommunication with their families. Reports indicate the Thais are running out of food. The Baghdad regime has claimed the right to question and possibly arrest members of the Thai community along with all other foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq.

It has been little comfort to know that Thais in Kuwait are treated like other foreigners. After Iraq solidified its occupation forces, it was the treatment itself which was shabby and unacceptable, not the nationality of the recipients. The indications from Baghdad that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is moving towards freeing Thai citizens is, we hope, the beginning of such a move for all foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait. Traditon, honour and well-established diplomatic practice all demand a certain standard of behaviour from Baghdad.

A regime involved in a conflict, according to this code among honourable nations, must expel foreigners in an orderly and humane way, or it must allow them to leave or continue their normal lives. An occupying power has a special duty to provide foreigners with the vary best physical treatment possible. Even if one case of rape by invading Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait is confirmed, the offenders must be punished even with greater severity and speed than in such a case under normal conditions.

Several commentators in recent days have said Iraq might use the foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq as hostages against foreign attack. This would be even more deplorable. Use of civilians as a shield is a cowardly action by any army or government, to say the least. While we are delighted at the apparent agreement to repatriate our own countrymen quickly, we are troubled by the Baghdad government's refusal thus far to deny it intends to keep foreigners of any nationality against their will in Kuwait or Iraq.

Iraq should immediately take several steps on this crucial, important question of non-combatant foreigners. First, it should allow those who want to leave to do so without any further delay. Hopefully, Baghdad will aid a fast repatriation of Thai citizens from the war zone. Second, it should state unquivocally it will protect all foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq and punish any soldier violating this order. It also must ensure all foreigners have sufficient food and, if necessary, allow all embassies in Kuwait to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their charges.

Failure by Baghdad to take any of these steps in short order could be read by some as confirmation that Iraq condones the reported brutality to foreigners and intends other action against them. This would put the Baghdad government in worse shape than it is at present. It also would invite the kind of reaction against Iraq which that country no doubt seeks to avoid.

Energy, Oil Imports Discussed

BK1208101390 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] The working group on public relations for saving energy will hold a meeting to step up campaigns to save energy, for both short- and long-term, as world oil prices are rising, Khunying Suphattra Matsadit, minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, said during an interview with a correspondent of the Public Relations Department.

[Begin recording] [Suphattra] As for the long-term plan, the Energy Saving Committee, covering both oil and electricity saving, has laid down a plan to instill in the people the habit of saving energy. No matter what the world oil or energy situation might be, no matter whether prices are low or high, we should be economical because we must use our foreign reserves in importing energy sources from abroad. In fact, we have already been campaigning to save energy through advertisements, radio, television, and newspapers. From now on, we will emphasize that oil prices are higher, and the public must be economical not just for the sake of the country, but for themselves as well. If you do not save energy, you will have to pay more for it. The Public Relations Department has been put in charge of issuing correct information on energy policy to the public.

[Correspondent] Do you expect cooperation from the mass media for your energy-saving campaign?

[Suphattra] The mass media has already been doing this, but we will emphasize to the public the need for saving energy. In the past, there has not been enough information for the public. We must increase our campaign for the long run.

[Correspondent] Do you mean by issuing booklets on saving energy?

[Suphattra] We have already distributed such leaflets to magazines and newspapers so they will not have to do their own research.

[Correspondent] Is there a plan to seek cooperation from oil companies for the campaign, as they are already in the business?

[Suphattra] Please give us more time. The director general of the Public Relations Department has been assigned today to collect information for planning the campaign, and I will be in charge of overseeing it. [end recording]

Anat Aphaphirom, governor of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, meanwhile disclosed that the Petroleum Authority and the Bangchak Petroleum Company are studying the possibility of importing crude at reasonable prices from abroad for local refineries.

[Begin recording] [Anat] There is no problem with the Thai Oil Refinery, because the ship carrying its crude is already on the way and will reach our port in a few weeks. The next shipment is due in September. That means we still have time to arrange it. Meanwhile, the ships carrying crude for the Bangchak Company were supposed to leave on 5 and 7 August, but then the war broke out. We therefore will not get crude from Kuwait; we will have to look for other sources of supply, possibly from Iran or other countries. Several countries have already made offers, but the prices are high. The Bangchak Company and the Petroleum Authority have been discussing whether we should wait a while. In fact, there are supplies, but prices are high. If we can cope with the prices, then we will have no problem getting the supplies of crude.

[Correspondent] Will Bangchak have to cut down on production as the two ships from Kuwait will not be able to berth at our port?

[Anat] I do not know. But from the point of view of imports of crude, so long as we can cope with the prices, there is no problem. We will not have to cut down on our refinery capacity.

[Correspondent] What is the situation of imports by the Petroleum Authority?
[Anat] There is no problem. We think we can find the sources for imports, but the prices will be higher than what we used to pay. This is normal.

[Correspondent] What are our imports of finished products?
[Anat] We have been importing finished products on a regular basis, especially bunker oil, which is used largely by the Electricity Generating Authority. We used to import 8,000 barrels per day from Kuwait. That means we will have to look from other sources to compensate for this amount. Anyway, we have already been looking for options.

[Correspondent] Where will we get it?
[Anat] From Singapore and from other countries in the Middle East.

[Correspondent] As we know, local oil dealers want to buy more from the Petroleum Authority as the price is cheaper than imported oil. How true is it? Will the Petroleum Authority be able to secure enough supply for them?
[Anat] The situation remains normal at present, and I believe importers will continue to import oil products. There should be no panic buying from the Petroleum Authority. [end recording]

Official Notes Trade

BK1208075290 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] The Middle East conflict involving Iraq and Kuwait is certain to have an impact on Thailand as Thai exports to both countries have to be suspended. Thai authorities, however, entertained hope that trade can resume in the near future. The Ministry of Commerce with its office of the trade commissioner in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, has been following the situation closely. Moves will be taken in accordance with the government policy, Mr. Chalo Fuang-arom, director general of the Department of Export Promotion pointed out to reporters.

He added that Dubai and other markets had been functioning normally as Thailand's outlets in the Middle East remain open. During 13 to 17 October this year, a Thai trade fair will be held in Dubai. The fair is expected to attract a large number of buyers and importers from the Middle East countries. There are presently 38 exporters from Thailand applying to participate in the fair. They are mostly exporters of garments and food items.

Saddam's 'Goal' Viewed

BK1608111590 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Sunthon Wathi's "World Window" Column: "Saddam's Goal"]

[Text] Even the Soviet Union, a longtime ally of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, has called Saddam's proposal announced on Baghdad Radio a couple of days ago unconstructive and impossible to implement. Iraq is facing increasingly acute diplomatic, military, and diplomatic pressure from the United States and the international community.

In his proposal, Saddam called for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon and withdrawal of Syrian military forces from Lebanon. He set withdrawal of U.S. and other military forces from Saudi Arabia and an end to economic sanctions against his country as preconditions for negotiations on Kuwait.

Saddam's proposal was immediately rejected by the United States, Israel, and Middle East countries concerned, including Egypt, because it amounted to an attempt to divert world attention, particularly the attention of Arab countries, from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Some points in his proposal deal with disputes which the rival countries have not been able to resolve even after years of negotiations and war, such as the Israeli occupation of Syrian territory following the war in 1967. No one forced the two countries into the war; therefore, it was normal that the loser lost some territory or rights.

The current military buildup in Saudi Arabia by U.S. and other forces is the direct consequence of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Those foreign forces are not there to annex Saudi Arabia; they are there at the invitation of the Saudis, who share common interests with them. Their presence is entirely different from the blatant Iraqi military occupation of Kuwait.

Saddam is trying to link problems in the Middle East with the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait, which is unrelated. It is clear that Saddam has been trying to divert attention from his attempt to incite nationalism among the Arabs to convince them that the real problem that must be resolved has been created by Israel and the United States.

Saddam's call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory has instantly made him a hero among certain Arab groups and has excited their anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli feelings. This is Saddam's goal.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Iran

BK1008053690 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Thailand and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a joint economic cooperation commission. The memorandum was signed yesterday in Iran during the visit of a Thai delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan.

Sublieutenant Praphat's delegation includes the secretary general of the National Security Council, the director of the Army's Directorate of Operations, the

Commerce Ministry's counselor, the deputy secretary general of the National Energy Administration, and representatives from the private sector and the mass media.

Sublieutenant Praphat said prior to the visit that another task assigned to his delegation was to negotiate with Iranian officials on the sale of 200,000 tonnes of high-grade Thai rice to that country. Discussions between Thai and Iranian officials are also expected to cover Thai labor in Iran and the Thai Government's policy toward the Thai Muslim people in southern Thailand. Apart from those issues, Sublieutenant Praphat said he will seek preliminary discussion on oil to pave ways for comprehensive talks on the same issue between senior Iranian officials and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin who is scheduled to visit Iran next week.

VOFA Asks If U.S. Cambodia Shift 'Proper'

BK1608081990 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Prince Sihanouk's Letter to ASEAN Ambassadors"]

[Excerpts] On 24 July, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the National Government Cambodia, which is the Cambodian Government recognized by the United Nations, sent a letter in French from Pyongyang to ASEAN ambassadors in Beijing, Pyongyang, Bangkok, and Tokyo. [passage omitted]

Prince Sihanouk's letter points out that the 11-year old Cambodian problem concerns the struggle by a small country against the aggression by a bigger country in order to preserve world peace and security, which is a very important principle of international law and the UN Charter that all countries must respect and comply. If violation is tolerated and the aggressor is not punished, peace, stability, and international security will be constantly threatened.

The root cause of the Cambodian problem is the Vietnamese aggression and occupation of Cambodia in January 1979. The international community has supported the National Government of Cambodia headed by Prince Sihanouk as the sole legitimate government of Cambodia. This shows that over the past 11 years the international community has adhered to the correct principle of international law and the UN Charter. The change in the stance of the United States and certain Western countries regarding the Cambodian problem has brought up the question of whether such a stance is proper and just, for the Vietnamese aggression and occupation is the cause of the Cambodian problem and the Phnom Penh regime is the consequence of the aggression. The international community has always rejected the legality of the Phnom Penh regime. Any contact with Vietnam or any action that could be construed as recognition of the Phnom Penh regime amounts to exonerating the Vietnamese crime and rewarding the Phnom Penh regime, both of whom are blatant violators of international law and the UN Charter.

Moreover, the attempt to discourage the Khmer Rouge from participation in political settlement of the Cambodian problem brings up the question of whether such an attempt is realistic or corresponds with the wish of the Cambodian people. This is because the Khmer Rouge are Cambodians who are also masters of the country and have the right to freely choose their own leaders and administration system, as well as the right to directly and indirectly join in the formation of the Cambodian government. This right to self-determination is the basic right recognized by international law. Also, discrimination against Khmer Rouge's participation in political settlement of the Cambodian problem amounts to pressuring it to pursue the armed struggle, thus prolonging and exacerbating the fighting.

In order to end the 11-year old Cambodian problem, the desire of the Cambodian people must be respected, particularly the role of all Cambodian factions in participating in the peace process, based on equal distribution of power among them, and must be recognized as the important key to restoration of peace in Cambodia.

Suchinda Views Cambodian Border, U.S. Policy

BK1108073790 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] The situation along the Thai-Cambodian border has not given a cause for concern at present, General Suchinda Khraprayun, commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Army, confirmed. Talking to reporters, the Army chief said that battles and armed struggling in Cambodia have been far from the Thai border. However, the Royal Thai Army has been on alert and monitoring the situation closely.

The commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Army admitted that the change in the U.S. position toward the Cambodian seat in the United Nations would affect Thailand to an extent. He commented that the solving of the Cambodian question would depend on ASEAN as a group and that Thailand cannot hope to deal with the problem by herself.

Cambodian Factions' Talks May Be 'Last Chance'

BK1108033790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Aug 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Cambodia's Last Hope"]

[Text] In the next few weeks, the world will know whether the four Cambodian factions can talk sense and come to grips with the unpredictable changes around the world by coming to terms among themselves. If the factions do not agree to the formation of a supreme national council to serve as an interim authority in Cambodia before elections, the Camodian people's future could be one of agony.

Vice Foreign Minister Sok An yesterday ended two days of discussions with the Prime Minister's advisers about Phnom Penh's desire to attend a four-faction meeting on the supreme council and peace proposals made by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Khmer Rouge has said it would attend the meeting under the framework of the Paris international talks on Cambodia.

While divergent positions continue to exist, some common ground can now be found among the four factions. At least, the warring parties see eye-to-eye on the usefulness of the Permanent Five's proposals, especially on the supreme council. The council would be made up of representative individuals with authority among the Cambodian people who ideally would represent all shades of political opinion.

At the moment, despite a positive reaction toward the Permanent Five's proposals, Phnom Penh's bottom line still holds to the outcome of June's peace talks in Tokyo, in which a voluntary ceasefire was tied to formation of the supreme council. But, the appeal for a ceasefire has been left unheeded. Meanwhile, the resistance coalition will have to form a new unified position at a meeting in Beijing later this month.

Countries concerned have clearly said that the supreme council must be set up as soon as possible to represent Cambodian sovereignty and to replace the resistance government's UN seat this year. Without the council, the Permanent Five will not be able to do business with the individual Cambodian factions. The United States and the European Community have declared that they would no longer support the UN seat being held by the resistance.

The current efforts at the regional level and international levels have already become part and parcel of the whole peace process in Cambodia. Certainly without cooperation from the Cambodian factions, this international effort will be fruitless.

Indonesia and France are likely to call for a meeting of the four factions in the near future. Certainly, there must be some preparatory meetings before the factions can meet and agree on a council to rule Cambodia until free elections are held.

The Permanent Five will meet again at the end of this month to iron out their remaining differences, including an international guarantee of Cambodia's independence and neutrality, human rights protection and elections. In the previous meeting, the Security Council members agreed on a military arrangement to ensure a ceasefire and an international transition authority for Cambodia. If the supreme council is set up in time, the Permanent Five will meet with the faction leaders to discuss the future of Cambodia.

As the world turns, other problems than the Cambodian conflict are occupying the attention of the world. The next two months will provide the Cambodian factions with probably their last chance to set the foundations for an internationally-brokered peace settlement. The price for failure will be another period of intensive bloodshed in Cambodia while the world looks on with mounting indifference.

Article Says China 'More Flexible' on Cambodia

BK1508031390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Aug 90 p 3

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] China has become more flexible and is more willing to cooperate with the international community in reaching for a Cambodian peace settlement after the United States changed its 11-year-old policy on that country last month.

Interviews with Thai officials, including senior foreign ministry officials, who attended the talks between Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng as well as a separate meeting between Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen; showed that China has softened its position by strongly endorsing the Permanent Five's peace process. They said China has stopped exploiting the difference of the Cambodian approach between the Foreign Ministry and PM's [prime minister's] advisers. Over the past two years, China has been ambivalent toward Chatchai's initiative on Indochina, particularly on Cambodia.

Thai officials also agreed that for the first time the Thai Foreign Ministry and PM's advisers were seeing eye to eye on the Cambodian peace process, especially on the peace effort espoused by the five pernanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Since Chatchai came to power two years ago, the ministry and the advisory group have been caught in a tussle to push through their own approaches to end the Cambodian conflict. Their divergences had confused countries in the region. The much-needed convergence of views on Cambodia among the Thai foreign policy makers came at the time when Bejing also expressed its strong support for the peace process worked out by the Permanent Five.

However, one top aide of Chatchai told THE NATION yesterday that during the talks between Chatchai and Li, it was very clear that China was very sensitive to the new US policy on Cambodia. "Li asked Chatchai to convey a message to Washington that Beijing would never support a dominant role for the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia," the aide said. The Khmer Rouge is the strongest of among the three resistance groups. After the boycott of the Tokyo meeting in June, the communist guerrillas have intensified their fighting against the Phnom Penh government, which has raised fear among the Western countries about the possible return of the Khmer Rouge to power.

Thailand and the United States have been working closely since the Tokyo meeting to get all Cambodian factions to form a supreme national council, which will serve as an interim authority until there is an election in Cambodia. The Permanent Five want to see a link between the council's formation and a cease-fire agreement.

Last month, US Secretary of State James Baker said Washington would vote against the resistance seat at the UN General Assembly and opened a dialogue with Vietnam and provided humanitarian aid to children in Cambodia and along the Thai-Cambodia border.

Li also responded positively towards the results of an informal meeting between Phnom Penh Vice Foreign Minister Sok An and Chatchai's two advisers—Phansak Winyarat and Kraisak Chunhawan. The aide quoted Li as saying that China is pleased to see Phnom Penh's positive reaction towards the Permanent Five's two papers. These papers dwell on the creation of an interim authority in Cambodia and the military arrangement during the ceasefire period.

Sok An told PM's advisers on Friday that "his government also finds positive aspects in the Permanent Five paper on the supreme national council and the Permanent Five peace process, which should be further discussed in the meeting of the supreme national council. In the past, Phnom Penh refused to accept the framework set up by the Permanent Five. Along with this support, Vietnam also welcomed the UN sponsored international control mechanism in Cambodia to verify Vietnamese troops pullout, monitor the cessation of arms aid and to supervise a general election.

Li also replied enthusiastically to Chatchai's appeal that China should stop the arms flow to the Khmer Rouge to help contribute to the peace process, according to the aide. The Chinese premier pledged that all arms supplies to the Khmer Rouge would be halted after the establishment of the supreme council. Li also urged other powers to comply with this arrangement.

China is the main supporter of the Khmer Rouge providing arms with Thailand's cooperation. The Soviet Union and Vietnam have been arming Phnom Penh troops.

Foreign Ministry Group To Visit PRC 21-27 Aug

BK1508012990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will send senior officials to Beijing next week to discuss the Cambodian conflict as part of the ongoing three-way talks of China, Thailand and Vietnam, ministry sources said yesterday. The sources said Permanent Secretary Kasemsamoson Kasemsi would lead a ministry delegation on a visit to Beijing August 21-27. Kasem is expected to meet with Xu Dunxin, the assistant minister for foreign affairs.

Kasem is also expected to hold talks with former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk who will be in Beijing to preside over a meeting of leaders of the three-party resistance coalition. That meeting, scheduled to begin Sunday, is expected to deal with formulating a common stance on the supreme national council (SNC), a body that will represent Cambodian sovereignty and unity during an interim period leading up to general elections. The sources said the Thai delegation will have an opportunity to monitor the tri-partite meeting, but declined to say whether the Thai team would participate in any way.

The Thai Foreign Ministry, at the request of Xu Dunxin, is acting as a go-between in Beijing-Hanoi consultations on the Cambodian issue. The consultations, which are part of talks on the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations, fell apart in June after both sides could not work out their differences on details of a Cambodian peace settlement, the sources said.

During a meeting between Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Chinese Premier Li Peng in Bangkok on Monday, the Chinese leader reaffirmed Beijing's support for the peace process designed recently by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The two premiers also agreed to put a maximum effort toward getting all four Cambodian factions to agree on the formation of the SNC, an issue the factions could discuss at a proposed meeting in Jakarta.

Li Peng left Thailand yesterday after a two-day visit.

Chatchai said yesterday Li Peng agreed that the SNC should be formed as soon as possible to replace the Cambodian seat currently held by the resistance government before the UN General Assembly convenes in September.

Sunthon Welcomes Lao Army General on Visit

BK1508145190 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpts] General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the Lao People's Army [LPA] General Staff, accompanied by a delegation, arrived for a four-day visit to Thailand at the invitation of the Thai supreme commander and the Army commander in chief. Gen. Sisavat was met by Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong when he arrived at the Air Force Command Airport at Don Muang today.

Gen. Sisavat's delegation comprises: Major General Thonglai Kommasit, deputy director of the LPA General Political Department; Major General Soulima Bounleut, head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Defense Ministry; General Savai Sai-gnasena, chief of the office of the National Defense Ministry; and Brigadier General Somlat Phommavong, head of the Advanced Military School.

Gen. Sunthon said that, during the visit of the Lao delegation, Thailand and Laos will hold discussions on the problems of border demarcation, illegal border crossings, and border banditry, and on the exchange of military attaches. [passage omitted]

Gen. Sisavat and his party then went to the Army Covention Hall for a courtesy call on Army Commander in Chief General Suchinda Khraprayun. Gen. Sisavat, accompanied by the Army chief, reviewed the guards of honor. The officers then held discussion on a wide range of topics. Also present at the meeting were: Gen. Arun Pariwattitham, assistant Army chief; Gen. Wirot Saengsanit, Army chief of staff; and other high-ranking officers.

The Army commander in chief hosted a luncheon in honor of Gen. Sisavat Keobounphan and his delegation. At the function, the Army chief noted that Thailand and Laos have entertained long-standing relations. They have similarities in language, dress, and culture. He said that he would like to see relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries flourish.

Transportation Cooperation Discussed With SRV

BK1508122990 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Anek Thapsuwan, deputy communications minister, reported on 13 August that a Vietnamese delegation led by Dr. Bui Van Suong, Vietnam's deputy communications minister, held discussions with him on cooperation in commercial navigation, and land and air transportation between the two countries.

Anek said Vietnam wanted more cooperation with Thailand in communications, especially in postal services. Vietnam now depends on Laos for the tranport of mail and this results in long delays. Anek has told Vietnam that it must contact the Foreign Ministry if it wants an official discussion with Thailand on the matter. Vietnam said it will send officials to Thailand in September.

On maritime transport, Vietnam wanted to solve the problem of delays as Vietnamese shipping now has to pass through Singapore. If an agreement can be reached with Thailand, Vietnam hopes that both countries will be able to use the land route through Laos. Transport will be even faster when the Thai-Lao bridge project is completed. Anek advised Vietnam to discuss this matter with Laos first, and to later plan a meeting with Thailand and Laos. Thailand, meanwhile, has sent officials from the Express Transport Organization for discussions with Laos.

Thailand has indicated to Vietnam that it wants more flights for its airline flying between Thailand and Vietnam in order to expand its passenger and cargo service capacity. Anek said Vietnam wants Thailand to pay more for it. No conclusion has been reached. The Communications Ministry will send Rungrot Siprasopsuk, deputy director general of the Civil Aviation Department, for talks with Vietnam this month.

Trade Cooperation Accord Signed With Australia

BK0708012390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Aug 90 p 8

[Text] The Government yesterday signed a cooperation agreement with Australia recognising reciprocal 'most favoured nation' trading status and non-discriminatory treatment for businesses. Foreign Ministers Sitthi Sawetsila and Gareth Evans signed an agreement calling for the establishment of a joint economic commission to enhance cooperation in trade industry, agricultural science, education and environment. The commission will promote cooperation among both the public and private sectors.

"I strongly believe this agreement will prove a valuable tool born out of our common interests," ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said.

Thai-Australian trade has increased an average 33 percent over the last few years.

A bilateral trade target of US$1,300 million was earlier set for the three years to 1991, but only half-way through the period the combined trade volume had already reached $1,120 million.

Mr Evans arrived in Bangkok yesterday for a two-day visit. He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan today for talks on regional security.

Cabinet Agrees To Revoke Trade Restrictions

BK1508014390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The Cabinet agreed to revoke restrictions on importing strategic goods into areas bordering Cambodia, with the exception of military gear, a government deputy spokesman said yesterday.

Traders will no longer face restrictions on the amount of food stuffs or medical supplies they can bring into the area, but all military gear will still be restricted. Military gear that has been restricted in the area since the passing of the Restricted Areas Decree of 1981 include rucksacks and raincoats, magnetic compasses and maps of Thailand.

Phonthep Techaphaibun said that the Cabinet's agreement with a Defence Ministry proposal to dismantle the trade restrictions reflected a more normal situation along the Cambodian border. The decree has been enforced since 1981 primarily in Prachin Buri, Chanthaburi and Trat provinces, where fighting between Cambodian resistance forces and government troops is always tense.

Bill for Establishing Labor Ministry Approved

BK0808022790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Aug 90 p 3

[Excerpt] The Cabinet yesterday approved an Interior Ministry draft bill calling for the establishment of a new ministry to oversee national labour affairs. Government sources said the draft was approved after the Cabinet decided to delete the words "and Social Welfare" from the original name of the proposed "Labour and Social Welfare Ministry."

Deputy Interior Minister Watana Atsawahem was assigned yesterday to coordinate with the government parliamentary coordination committee to forward the bill to Parliament so that it will be deliberated during the upcoming extraordinary session.

Labour Department chief Siri Kewalinsarit welcomed the Cabinet's decision, saying it was time for the country to have a ministry to specifically oversee workers' welfare.

The country's population in the labour and farming sectors has risen to around 26 million.

The new ministry will have nine agencies under its supervision, including labour protection,labour relations, employment promotion and social security. It was hoped that the establishment of the Labour Ministry would help improve workers' living standards, Mr Siri said.

The department chief said he did not anticipate any problems in selecting officials to work at the Labour Ministry office, which was expected to be constructed on Labour Department land in Din Daeng.

Deputy Interior Minister Sano Thianthong said yesterday Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan would be the only person to decide who should be appointed to oversee the new ministry. "We are politicians, we must always be ready," he said when asked if he was ready to accept the new responsibility if appointed by the Prime Minister. [passage omitted]

Leaflets Distributed in Pattani Decry Army Plan

BK1108031390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Pattani—A group of people in this southernmost province yesterday distributed leaflets in the Yawi language attacking the Harapan Baru (New Hope) project of the Royal Thai Army and called on Muslim people to destroy Buddhism and Thai culture.

The leaflets, attacking the operation of the project by the army, police and local officials, were distributed to residents in Muang, Yarang and Mayo districts of the Muslim-dominated province. The message in the leaflets, claimed to have been issued by a group of Pattani people, called on Muslims in the southernmost province to:

—destroy or uproot the Harapan Baru project which they said was initiated by lying Thai people;
—recover "liberty" from Thai Buddhists; and
—destroy all Buddha images and Thai culture in their localities.

The radical group also claimed in the leaflets that the Melayu have been oppressed and cheated.

Reportage on Deputy Minister's Visit to Iran

WA1608120590

For reportage on the visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan to Iran, please see the Iran section of the 16 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Vietnam

SRV-U.S. Team Reportedly Finds MIA Remains

BK1608121490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 16 (AFP)—A joint team of U.S. and Vietnamese experts has found the remains of 20 people believed to be U.S. soldiers Missing In Action (MIAS) during the Vietnam war, a government spokesman said here Thursday. "Since the beginning of this operation, on August 6, 70 bodies have been exhumed of which 20, according to U.S. experts, could be those of MIAS," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

A fifth U.S. team arrived in Vietnam Wednesday to join the current search operation, the eleventh of its kind since 1988, the spokesman said. The new team would be working in Nghe Tinh Province south of Hanoi, he said.

Search operations began in September 1988, 13 months after the visit to Hanoi of General John Vessey, former President Ronald Reagan's special envoy with responsibility for MIAS.

According to the Pentagon, 2,353 U.S. soldiers disappeared during the war: 1,719 in Vietnam, 545 in Laos, 83 in Cambodia and six in China.

According to U.S. sources, about 60 of the total 250 bodies so far exhumed have been identified as those of U.S. soldiers.

NHAN DAN Views U.S. Military Strategy

BK1508164090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Article by Le Ba Thuyen in 7 August NHAN DAN: "The True Nature of the Readjustment of the U.S. Military Strategy"]

[Text] President Bush just delivered a speech which was described by the White House as highly important in the domain of U.S. diplomacy. In that speech Mr. Bush proposed that U.S. military forces be reduced by 25 percent by 1995 and that national defense be rearranged on a priority basis to meet the changes in East Europe and to ease tension between East and West.

What is the real motive behind the U.S. reduction of military forces? Apart from the above-mentioned reasons, is there any other factor leading to the U.S. readjustment of military strategy?

Washington's readjustment of military strategy was not raised for the first time on 2 August 1990 in Mr. Bush's speech at the ceremony marking the founding of the Aspen Institute in the western United States. Early this year, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney already presented to Congress a long-term defense plan, which had been formulated by the Bush government after a long period of study.

Being subject to three tremendous pressures, Washington has been compelled to review and readjust its strategy. First are the stern demands of the feeble economy and the federal budget that is facing an increasingly serious deficit and can in no way shoulder the extremely costly arms race accelerated by the United States in the 1980's. Between 1980 and 1989, the U.S. military budget devoured up to $2,000 billion. During that same period, the Gross National Product—GNP—also increased by only $2,000 billion. With military spending accounting for nearly $300 billion, it is expected that this year's federal budget will face a deficit of $218.5 billion, while the (James Bregman) law only permits a maximum deficit of $100 billion. In 1991, the budget deficit may increase to over $230 billion, while the above-mentioned law compels the Bush administration to reduce the deficit to below the $64-billion mark.

For this reason, when the U.S. Defense Department demanded a military budget of up to $307 billion for 1991, many congressmen appeared bored and exerted even more pressure for a reduction in military spending, especially at a time when the United States was about to hold an important election late this year.

Second, since the world has entered the new period of detente and the Soviet Union is gradually withdrawing its troops from the East European countries, public opinion in the United States and other countries has increasingly demanded that Washington reduce the size of its vast Army and thick network of its military bases and withdraw American troops from various foreign countries.

These demands, coupled with the major changes in various regions, especially Europe, have compelled Washington to review and readjust its strategy in such a way as to suit the new situation.

The third pressure, although indirect but very important, is the economic race that is taking place on a world scale. The United States, entangled in the costly process of militarization, faces the danger of being overtaken by Japan and the West European countries. These countries may pose a fierce challenge to Washington, especially when the EEC becomes a unified market in 1992 and Japan has become the United States' most dangerous rival.

To effectively carry out the campaign to restore its competitive ability in the year 2000, the United States cannot help paring down its huge military expenditure to ensure additional funds for the modernization of its economy. A puzzling problem for the Bush administration is how to reduce one-fourth of the military forces but still can maintain the armed strength to serve as the basis for its strategy of intimidation. The answer to this problem is the need for Washington to successfully work out a plan for adjusting and developing its forces at minimum cost that will be acceptable to the budget.

Implementing the policy of reducing its military forces by 25 percent, the White House and the Pentagon will readjust their strategy along the following lines:

1. Reducing numerical strength while increasing quality to maintain the U.S. military might. According to the Pentagon's plans, 500,000 out of the total 3 million American troops will be reduced along with 200,000 civilian employees of the Defense Department. Mr. Dick Cheney disclosed that in the next five years, five of the 28 regular and reserve divisions of the Army and some units of the Air Force and Navy will be dissolved and the number of military bases, both at home and abroad, will be reduced. The Pentagon also plans to reduce the number of American troops stationed in West Europe from 350,000 at present to more than 190,000 and to withdraw some 10,000 U.S. soldiers from Asia and the Pacific.

Washington's intention is that along with reducing military forces, it will modernize weapons and military equipment in an effort to maintain and increase the fighting capacity of the U.S. Armed Forces.

2. Reducing its military forces but continuing to firmly maintain and consolidate its strategic deterrence position, complete with nuclear and conventional weapons. The target for arms reduction is directed at those types of weapons that are surplus or obsolete while continuing to increase and modernize strategic and conventional weapons, and, based on high technology, making preparations for war with the use of sophisticated weapons. This type of war does not require the commitment of a large number of troops. It is because of this that Washington continues to intensively accelerate the manufacture of the three new types of strategic weapons: namely, B-2 Stealth aircraft, the MX-missile, and nuclear-powered, missile-based submarines. Together with its "Star Wars"—SDI—plan, Washington is attempting to gain a strategic edge over the Soviet Union.

3. Exercising its policy of responsibility-sharing, Washington is pressuring its Japanese and West European allies into intensifying their militarization and shouldering heavier responsibility by taking the place of those

U.S. forces to be withdrawn. Washington is strengthening the NATO bloc and the U.S.-Japanese military alliance with the aim of serving Washington's global strategy.

In his 2 August statement, Mr. Bush still stressed the need to maintain U.S. forward elements in Western Europe, the Pacific, the Mediterranean, and the Persian Gulf. He declared that the Soviet Union will continue to be regarded as a main opponent, using this as a pretext to accelerate the strategic weapons modernization plan and the SDI program. The reduction of the U.S. military forces, if implemented, may contribute to easing tension in certain areas. However, the United States' move to readjust its strategy by reducing part of its Armed Forces can in no way do away with the danger of war created by warlike forces.

With its plan to modernize its nuclear and conventional weapons, Washington continues to maintain military strategies of a visibly aggressive nature such as the integrated deterrence strategy, the competition strategy, and the new global strategy with the aim of opposing the national liberation and independence movements, as was recently the case with Panama. This danger still persits. This situation requires various nations to continue to heighten their vigilance.

However, Washington will meet many great difficulties because a 25-percent reduction in the military forces will cost the United States 1 million jobs and will therefore increase its numbers of unemployed. Those giant companies in the military industrial complex such as GMC [General Motors Corporation], Lockheed, and Northrop may suffer a one-fifth drop in their income and may have to lay off workers en masse. The US$158 billion to be saved from the military budget for the next five years will be like a grain of sand in the desert and will hardly be enough to salvage and modernize the difficulty-plagued U.S. economy.

The United States' grip over its West European and Japanese allies is inherently dependent on two tools—that is, economic might and the U.S. Army. But economically the United States is facing fierce competition from Western Europe and Japan, thus weakening the U.S. position and strength. Militarily, the fact that the United States is having to gradually withdraw its presence in a number of regions has created conditions for countries in these regions to seek to free themselves from Washington's grip, thus further aggravating the differences between the three nerve centers of imperialism.

The move to readjust the military strategy and reduce the U.S. military forces by one fourth will hardly enable the Bush administration to free itself from growing difficulties now tormenting the United States.

Spokeswoman on PRC Relations, Gulf Situation

BK1608103290 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry held a regular press conference in Hanoi on Thursday [16 August]. Mrs. Pham Thuy Thanh, deputy spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, informed several diplomatic activities of Vietnam and answered questions concerning the Vietnamese-Chinese relations and the Cambodian issue.

On the statement of Chinese Premier Li Peng saying that China would not support the Khmer Rouge's return to power in Cambodia and there is no difficulty for China to stop military aid to the Khmer Rouge if Vietnam withdraws all its troops from Cambodia under UN supervision, Mrs. Pham Thuy Thanh said: After the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, the danger of Khmer Rouge's return to power by force has become the number one concern of the world community. Therefore, ending military aid to the Khmner Rouge is in conformity with the demand of the world people.

On the developments around the Persian Gulf, Mrs. Pham Thuy Thanh (?declared) that Vietnam closely followed with deep concern the tense situation in the Gulf. Vietnam wishes the issue to be settled by peaceful means. The situation in the Gulf is complicated. Vietnam is closely following the situation with a cautious attitude.

Hanoi International Updates Foreign Investment

BK1308073490 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Aug 90

[From the "Sunday Show" feature]

[Text] Vietnam's cheap labor force and materials have drawn many businessmen from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Britain, and so on. Thirty companies in Hong Kong are selling their goods to Vietnam and in return buying from it coffee, tea, leather, and aquatic products. Japanese count among the biggest investors in Vietnam and include a total of 113 million U.S. dollars. It is followed by France with 93 million U.S. dollars. Other big investors are Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Thailand.

However, activities are still limited largely due to the U.S. embargo. Several projects cannot be carried out as the necessary equipment is available in the United States only. It should be mentioned that most of the foreign investment has gone into the exploration and exploitation of offshore oil. Second comes investment in Ho Chi Minh City. By now, the city has obtained licenses for 56 projects totalling 315 million U.S. dollars. The money has been invested in mechanical engineering and transport; in the production of textiles, leather goods, garments, electronic goods, food, plasticware, packaging, jewelry, timber, and paper; and in hotels and services.

However, all these projects are only exploratory. Well, recently I made a visit to Ho Chi Minh City and toured several projects jointly ventured by foreign investors. I also met Mr. Vo Thanh Cong, deputy chairman of Ho Chi Minh City Investment Audit Committee. Let's see what he said about the problem.

He said: Among those projects, only ten are relatively important in size, each with a capital of 5 million U.S. dollars. The rest are small. Investment in infrastructure such as bridges, roads, harbors, airports, power and water supply, and housing and communications is insignificant. There are many reasons. First, the law on foreign investment. They are rather attractive but yet to be complemented with sub-laws like commerce law, investment insurance law, bankruptcy law, etc. Moreover, some other laws seem to be too hard in the eyes of foreigners. The land law, for instance, makes it difficult for them to obtain long-term leases. What is also prohibitive is the slowness with which things are being done. Ho Chi Minh City has not succeeded in drawing up a comprehensive plan for socioeconomic development until the year 2000. No agency has been able to work out a detailed list of priorities. Furthermore, the localities that need investment have not conducted proper feasibility studies and have not taken the necessary steps to improve the infrastructure and services that foreign investors will need.

As we have said previously, in the first half of this year, some 1,200 foreign trade delegations came to Vietnam to study the possibility of investing money in Vietnam. That figure represented an increase of 23 percent over the same period last year. Of the 77 applications made, 54 were approved by the government with a total investment capital of 245 million U.S. dollars. Eighty-seven percent of the projects are connected with tourism, services, fishing, farm and forest produce, processing, and consumer goods production. The number for northern Vietnam doubled the figure for the same period last year.

Civil Aviation Expands International Services

BK1608145890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Comrade Van Ngoc has reported that Vietnamese civil aviation is expanding its international relations in the field of passenger and cargo transportation and flight support services, especially on Southeast Asian routes including the route connecting Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with Bangkok, a regional center of international air travel. The volume of passenger service on this route has increased substantially, accounting for more than 86 percent of the total number of passengers carried by the Vietnamese civil aviation on the international routes.

Owing to rational organization and good flight support services, by the end of July the Vietnamese civil aviation had more than fulfilled its international passenger transportation plan, achieving 81 percent of the annual target. It has also fulfilled 60 percent of its cargo transportation target.

Finance Ministry Reviews Results, Plans Tasks

BK1508092790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] According to a Voice of Vietnam correspondent, the Ministry of Finance organized a conference in Hanoi today to evaluate the implementation of the financial and budgetary tasks for the first six months of 1990 and to discuss measures for fulfilling the program of actions for the latter half of the year. Attending the conference were the comrade heads of financial offices and industrial, trade, agricultural, and state revenue services of 44 provinces, cities, and special sectors throughout the country.

Implementing the socioeconomic development program for the first half of the year, almost all sectors and echelons have made efforts to overcome difficulties and to accelerate production. Consequently, fairly good results have been recorded on the agricultural production front. Meanwhile, the production activities of all industries, especially the centrally-run industries, have been well adapted to the new management system step by step. The export index has been on the rise, and no major changes have been reported in supply and demand.

Nonetheless, generally speaking, our country's economy still faces many difficult and complicated problems. Productivity, especially that of the state-run economic sector, is low. On the average, the Gross National Product has increased only by 3.5 percent whereas the population growth rate has increased by 2.2 percent. There has been a great imbalance between imports-exports and international payments. As a result, in the first six months of the year, only 36.7 percent of state revenue contributions has been made and only 41 percent of the yearly planned spendings covered. Huge debts to the state budget remain unsettled and exceed those incurred in 1989 by one and a half times. Only some 47 percent of the tax collection target from the state-run economic sector has been met. The yearly tax collection targets from the industrial and trade sector, agricultural production, and commercial goods imports-exports have been fulfilled by 41, 98, and 57 percent respectively.

Over the past six months, due to low tax collection results and slow state revenue contributions, state expenses have accounted for 41 percent of the yearly budgetary allocations. Nonetheless, the state still managed to provide funds to cover expenses incurred by national defense and national security, retirement pension, disability compensation, social welfare policies, scholarships for high school and college students, and wages and fringe benefits for the administrative and professional sectors.

The conference suggested a number of measures for fulfilling the financial and budgetary tasks for the latter half of the year. As an immediate objective, prompt efforts should be concentrated on collecting late state revenue contributions from economic units and organizations and on exerting tight control over all sources of budget revenue. At the same time, positive measures must be worked out to cope with tax collection shortfall and tax evasion. Also, efforts are needed to exploit new sources of budget revenue in order to make up for a sharp decrease in the revenue sources generated by external economic relations. It is necessary to tighten control over the sources of strong foreign currency obtained from exports and other activities of local and central sectors.

Regarding expenditures, it is necessary for all localities to economize on and tighten control over spending strictly in accordance with the Council of Ministers chairman's directive on securing economical expenses and on closely controlling capital allotment and spendings using foreign currency.

Economic Results of Renovation Policy Reported

BK1608103390 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 16—Vietnam's initial achievements in its renovation policy can be seen in many fields, especially on the economic front. A better diet for all and the abundance of consumer goods at all market places are undeniable.

According to the General Department of Statistics, the national income in 1989 increased by 14.7 percent over that in 1985 and food output (including paddy and other grains calculated in paddy equivalent) by nearly 3.1 million tons.

The Communist Party of Vietnam at its sixth congress in September 1986 set forth a policy for a comprehensive renovation, economic, social and political, in which priority is given to economic renovation. The policy stresses the need to change from the mechanism of state subsidization to cost-profit accounting and to develop a multi-sectoral economy and make rational use of market relations in building a socialist-oriented economy. The policy has had an immediate impact on agricultural production. The peasants were allotted pieces of land for a period of 10-15 years so they could feel reassured in investing labor and capital in extensive farming. As a result, rice productivity went up from 2.8 tons per hectare in 1986 to 3.2 tons in 1989. For the first time since national reunification in 1975, Vietnam has exported rice totalling 1,450,000 tons in three years. This success is made possible thanks to many factors including the contribution of industry, especially the electricity supply service which saw an increase of half a million Kw in total capacity in the three review years.

The most notable industrial achievement is the production of more than 2.5 million tons of crude oil from 1986 to 1989 at the oil wells off the south Vietnam coast.

On the whole, industrial output in the last three years went up by 25.6 percent.

Another bright spot in the economic picture is the continual increase in the value of exports. In 1989, total export value reached 1,820 million rubles and U.S. dollars [as received], 40 percent above target and 50 percent higher than in 1988.

Vietnam's "open-door" economic policy has also drawn more and more foreign investment. Since the promulgation of the law on foreign investment in late 1987, 151 foreign-invested projects with a total capital of 1,077 million U.S. dollars have been approved.

In the first half of this year, the socioeconomic situation continued to evolve positively though many new difficulties have cropped up. The agricultural upward trend is holding, particularly in regard to food production in south Vietnam. In industry, particularly in those branches managed by the central government, some items have recorded marked increases. For instance, output of electricity increased by 8.9 percent, crude oil by 92.6 percent, paper by 7 percent, soap and detergent by 62.6 percent and fabrics produced by state-run mills by 10 percent... The most burning issues at present lie in the financial and monetary domains. Budget deficit and inflation though narrowed have not been curbed. Due to the shortage of capital and poor performances, local industries and small industries are in the doldrums, causing many hardships to millions of laborers.

To restore the balance of budget and maintain a stable pace of development there need new and synchronous measures, and, no less importantly, a quick improvement of the trade balance. Working along that line, all economic branches are reconsidering the projects under their charge with a view to concentrating capital and technical means on the key projects and reducing the scale of or shelving those projects deemed not of vital importance for the immediate future. These steps will be taken in parrallel with a nationwide campaign against tax evasion, smuggling, corruption, and other negative acts.

Kien Giang Sends More to New Economic Zones

BK1108045290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] During the first half of 1990 Kien Giang Province sent almost 1,600 families comprising 8,500 persons—including 1,154 workers—to build new economic zones on Go Quao, Tan Hiep, An Ninh, Vinh Thuan, and Phu Quoc Districts. The province, in the second half of this year, will send 3,500 families of 15,000 persons to resettle in Long Xuyen Quadrangle and other sparsely populated areas.

Council Adopts Proposal on Traffic Safety Week

BK1508091190 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—The Council of Ministers has adopted a proposal of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Posts to take the first seven days of October this year as the "International Traffic Safety Week" in Vietnam.

By this decision, efforts should be focussed on improving traffic regulation activities and facilities and duly punishing all violators of the country's traffic rules as well as offenders to ensure public order and social safety.

Australia

Hawke Views Role of Warships in Gulf Crisis

BK1608072090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Hawke, said the role of three Australian warships sent to the Persian Gulf could change. Mr. Hawke made the remark in a radio interview while again defending his decision to send the ships. He said that at present it was eminently sensible for the role of the ships to be the monitoring of the United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Hawke said the United States which had requested Australian support to deter Iraqi aggression regarded the [word indistinct] appropriate. (?But) he said the ships will take another 19 days to reach the Gulf and their role could be redefined by then.

Major Powers 'Undermining' GATT Progress

BK1508045990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0401 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Sydney, Aug 15 (AFP)—Uncompromising stands by the world's major powers are undermining the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Australia's Trade Negotiations Minister Neal Blewett said here Wednesday.

Mr. Blewett told a meeting of foreign correspondents that the final GATT talks scheduled for December were headed for failure because there was no accord on agriculture or market access. "Unless you have an exercise of political will by the majors in the next few months, you will not get a successful outcome," he predicted.

The Gulf crisis would make it harder for the GATT talks to be successful, Mr. Blewett said. "The whole Middle East situation ... (is) going to provide a major distraction to world leaders at the very time we need their minds concentrated on getting the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion," he said. Failure of the Uruguay Round would result in creeping protectionism, increased trade wars and regional trading blocks, Mr. Blewett said.

The minister said he saw a new hindrance for the GATT progress in what he termed "Euro-arrogance"—Western Europe's belief that it can afford to snub other continents after the opening up of Eastern Europe. "On agriculture, my discussions with particularly the French and the European Community commissioners in Brussels were pretty unsatisfactory," Mr. Blewett said. "The Europeans are still seeking to avoid specific disciplines and commitments on export subsidies and market access. "Japan ... still has a total prohibition in relation to the rice market. It's extremely difficult for us to push for some reform in Europe unless something has been done about that significant and symbolic issue," he said.

Mr. Blewett said a further crisis in agricultural negotiations was likely towards the end of October. "In looking at the market access negotiations, again progress has been unsatisfactory. The reason for that is lack of leadership by the majors," he said. "Neither the United States, nor Japan, nor the Europeans have come forward with market access offers of the level (of) which they are capable."

There had been no firm progress on textiles and clothing either, Mr. Blewett said, adding: "We see it as one of the issues on which the (Uruguay) Round as a whole could founder."

The framework for the final talks in December were not in place by July as they were supposed to be, he said. "Unless the tempo is increased, unless the political decisions are made, there will not be a successful outcome of the round," Mr. Blewett said.

The best hope for more liberal trade was for heightened consumer awareness of the cost of protection, he said. "We welcome the growing recognition in Japan by consumers of some of the costs of their agricultural protection," the minister said. "We wish ... there was more evidence in Europe of the recognition by European consumers of the cost of the common agricultral policy."

Papua New Guinea

Council Meets on Border Incidents With Indonesia

BK1608071590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Papua New Guinea's National Security Advisory Council is reportedly meeting in Port Moresby in the wake of a number of border incidents involving Indonesian troops. Yesterday, Papua New Guinea's National Broadcasting Commission [NBC] reported that a number of people had allegedly been shot by Indonesian troops. It quoted reports reaching the northern town of Vanimo as saying two women were among the dead.

NBC said the premier of Sandon Province, Mr. Egbert Yadiyo, has warned that he may withdraw government offices from the border area if the national government fails to provide troop and police protection. There have been reports from the Yapsi border station of renewed clashes between Indonesian forces and Irian Jayan rebels.